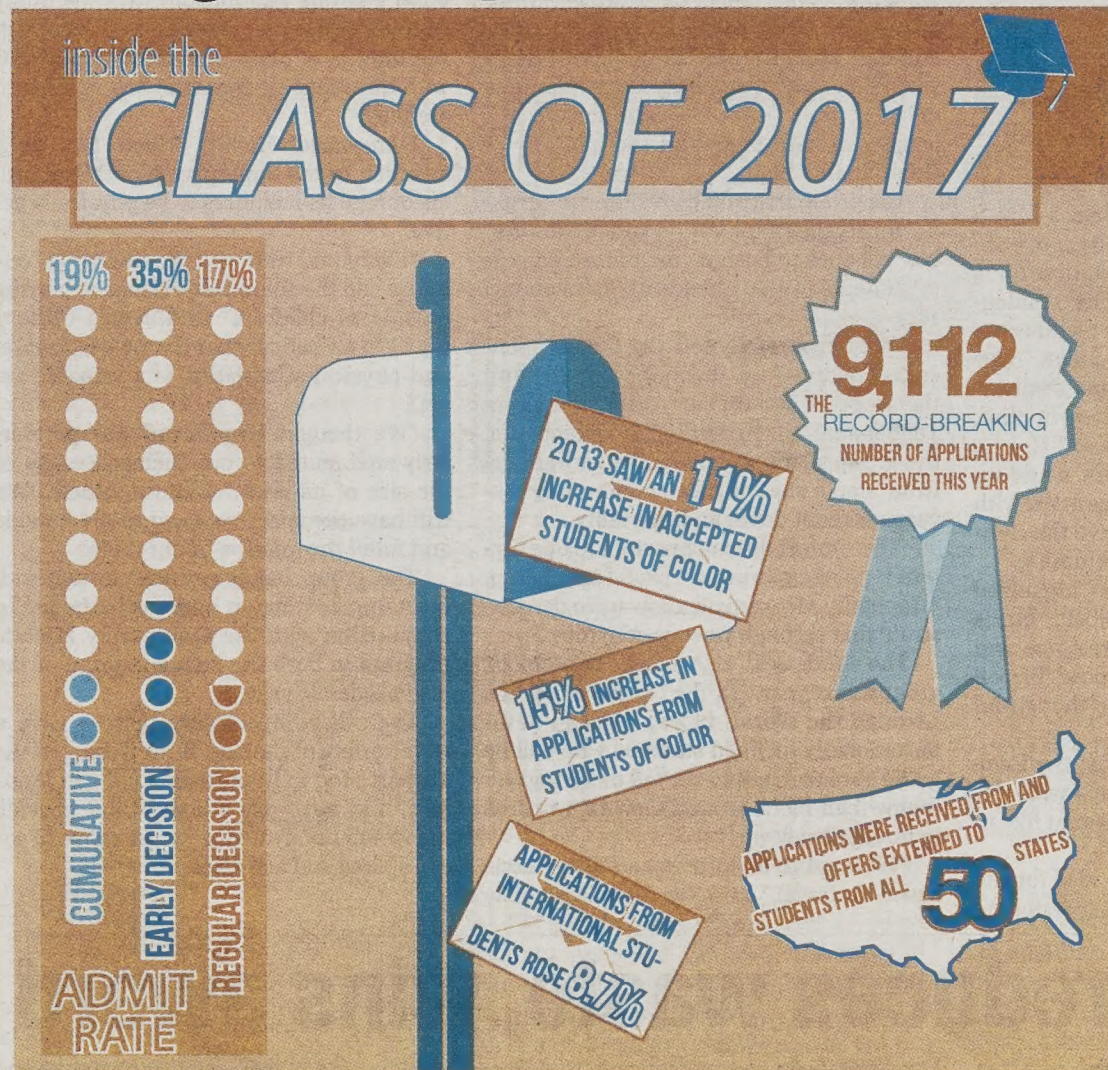


## College accepts class of 2017



By Isabelle Dietz

Middlebury offered 1,750 students admission to the class of 2017 in the most competitive and diverse admission process in the College's history. Three hundred and fifty of these students were admitted in early February or Early Decision last December, and Regular Admission decisions were available online at 8 a.m. on March 23.

"Interest in Middlebury remains high and we are heartened that so many wonderful students continue to be interested in joining our community," said Director of Admissions Manuel Carballo.

The record number of 9,112 ap-

plications submitted to the College is a three percent increase from 2012. Though the College's average acceptance rate for the last five years has been 20 percent, this year its admission rate dropped down to 19 percent over all. 35 percent of Early Decision applicants were admitted, whereas the acceptance rate for regular decision applicants was 17 percent.

"It is especially exciting to see that our applicant pool continues to become more diverse," said Carballo. "The growing competition makes the selection process tougher every year, but in the end we are able to bring a wonderful class to

join the Middlebury family."

Not only was the applicant pool for the Class of 2017 highly competitive — it was also historically diverse.

"We can only comment right now on admitted students, not the actual class," said Dean of Admissions Greg Buckles. "I can say that our application numbers for students of color, international students and first-generation students were the highest in the College's history this year — we're pleased with and proud of those results."

Middlebury had a record of just

SEE COLLEGE, PAGE 5

## Cheating taints the honor code

By Kyle Finck

Four years ago, 35.5 percent of students reported cheating at least once. Ninety-seven percent of students who saw infractions did not report it. With few signs of improvement since 2009, it is clear that cheating, nonexistent peer proctoring and student apathy are still sickening the honor code, putting its long term health in danger.

The Honor Code Review Committee — two faculty members, two students and one member from Dean of the College's office — is currently gauging the health of the code as they do every four years. The final report is due for release at the end of April.

Touted by tour guides to prospective students and signed by every incoming first-year, the academic honor code is designed to be the foundation behind the integrity of student work.

The most salient feature of the code is peer tutoring, in which both students who cheat and their peers who witness it are "morally obligated" to report the infractions, according to article three of the code.

But the strong data conducted during the last honor code review point to a fundamental problem undermining the code's strength and effectiveness at the College: students are cheating, but neither faculty nor students themselves are willing to hold them to account. Numerous conversations with students, faculty and administrators have called into question whether the honor code can survive the status quo.

### A STINGING REBUKE

This year's review follows the committee's contentious conclusions it arrived at the last time it was convened, four years ago. The headline recommendation was to remove language restricting faculty

members from being present during exams, essentially killing the most visible feature of honor code.

Dean for Judicial Affairs Karen Guttentag described the privilege of taking un-proctored exams as a three-point agreement between faculty and students.

"The faculty agree not to proctor in exchange for students not cheating and proctoring each other," said Guttentag, who served on the 2009 council and is heading this year's review. "If one piece of that is missing, it doesn't work."

"We concluded [in 2009] that to a certain extent, neither of the student responsibilities were being help up. We could not in good faith continue this process."

The recommendation was largely driven by a study conducted in the spring of 2008 by a student in the Economics of Sin, a 400-level class taught by Associate Professor of Economics Jessica Holmes.

Of the 484 students who responded, 35.5 percent admitted giving or receiving unauthorized aid on exams, papers, labs or homework some time during their four years at the College, according to data provided by Holmes.

Among the students who reported violating the honor code, 33 percent reported breaking it more than once a semester.

Student responses to questions on peer proctoring revealed that 63 percent of students witnessed violations more than once a semester. But only three percent of those who witnessed cheating actually reported the violation.

When asked why they did not report the violations, the most common responses were "not my problem/none of my business," "do not want to be a rat or snitch," and "so many students do it that it is unfair to single a few out or it would be hypocritical of me."

SEE STUDENT, PAGE 4

## Alumnus walks across America

By Emma Eastwood-Paticchio

On Wednesday, April 3, Andrew Forsthoefel '11 and his co-producer Jay Allison held a listening event in Woods Hole, Mass. for the release of their hour-long radio documentary, which follows Forsthoefel's 4,000-mile walk across the country through the voices of people he met along the way. The radio piece is published on Transom.org, along with a map of the route Forsthoefel walked and more details about the project.

Forsthoefel started walking from his home in Chadds Ford, Penn. in October 2011, and traveled through Virginia, Louisiana, New Mexico, and every state along the way until he reached the Pacific Ocean in

Half Moon Bay, Calif. on September 8, 2012. His parents were waiting for him along with a circle of friends he had met along the way. When Forsthoefel arrived, he had with him over 85 hours of audio, capturing various perspectives on life, death, fear and age.

When Forsthoefel set out, he did not have any plan of how long he would walk or where he would end up. He knew that he would record conversations and that he wanted to ask people about transformation, but he did not know what he would find nor what would become of his journey. He wanted to learn, to listen and to spend time with people — and so he chose to walk.

"For [the period] after graduation, I hoped to find some in-

SEE TRANSMO, PAGE 3

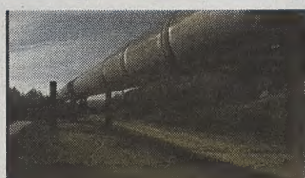
### "GREEN"HOUSE KICK-OFF



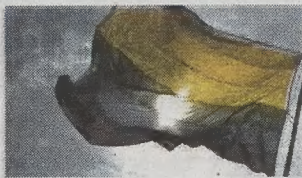
COURTESY OF ANTHEA VIRAGH

The Solar Decathlon team celebrated the beginning of construction of InSite, the environmentally-friendly house it will enter into the fall 2013 competition, on Thursday, April 4 at 4:30 p.m. near the mods. President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz spoke about the importance of the competition.

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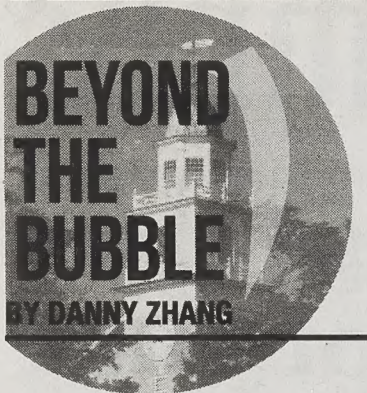


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Over the past few weeks, tensions on the Korean Peninsula have risen to levels not seen in years, perhaps decades. The latest escalation in militaristic rhetoric and conflict preparation began soon after North Korea conducted a nuclear test on Feb. 12. That underground test, North Korea's third in less than a decade, was seen as a sign of the country's continued defiance of international condemnation. If the test succeeded in "miniaturizing" a nuclear device for missile deployment, which is not likely but possible, the test would mark a turning point in North Korea's nuclear program.

The United Nations Security Council vehemently opposed North Korea's actions and approved tough sanctions on March 7, affecting banking, trade, travel and the import of luxury goods. Unlike previous sanctions, this latest response gained unanimous council approval, with China voting in the affirmative to condemn the actions of North Korea's regime, which it has strongly supported for decades with public rhetoric and food and fuel aid. Many national security experts say that this is a sign that China's patience with North Korea's defiant acts is wearing thin.

Following the approval of new sanctions and the start of joint Korean-American military exercises in the region, North Korea promptly declared null the armistice agreement between the North and the South that has kept peace on the peninsula since the end of hostilities in the Korean War in 1953. At a border outpost in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), North Korea has turned off the phone that provides a direct line of communication between the two sides. In 2003 and 2009, the North also declared invalid the armistice in response to military exercises.

Just prior to the Security Council vote, North Korea also threatened preemptive nuclear strikes against the United States. Most experts agree that the North does not yet have the capability to deliver nuclear warheads with Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs). It is more likely that the North has the ability to strike South Korea, Japan and even American bases in Guam with mid-range missiles. Even so, the security alliance between the U.S. and both South Korea and Japan would obligate an American response to any aggression from the North. There are 28,500 American soldiers stationed in South Korea alone.

Last week, North Korea barred hundreds of South Korean employees from entering the Kaesong joint industrial complex, one of the few areas of cooperation between the two sides that also employs 50,000 North Korean workers. Furthermore, the North Koreans said they would be restarting nuclear operations at its Yongbyon complex, which was shut down in 2007 as part of the aid-for-disarmament negotiations known as Six Party Talks. At the end of the week, North Korea informed diplomatic missions in Pyongyang, including that of Russia, that it could no longer guarantee their safety and security.

The United States has responded by deploying anti-missile defense systems to Guam. It has also postponed an ICBM missile test to avoid escalating tensions. The U.S. commander in South Korea has canceled a trip to Washington to monitor the situation on the peninsula.

Although the escalation in rhetoric and war preparations is grave and serious, many experts believe that Kim Jong-Un is simply trying to consolidate power within the hawkish military and bolster his domestic legitimacy. Some argue that North Korea's actions are all too familiar and it does not have the capability or will to follow through.

## Residential life decides superblocks

By Aleck Silva-Pinto

Residential Life has released its decision announcing the groups that have been awarded superbloc housing for the 2013-2014 academic year. The committee has approved the Collective Mind group for Palmer House, the Design House in Jewett, the Exploration and Adventure group in Meeker House, the Superplay superbloc in Homestead and the Intentional Living House in Munford House, in addition to Superblocks in the five mods.

Each year, groups of about 30-45 students apply for these block houses with a specific theme in mind. Members of each group must prepare a presentation for a board including Karin Hall-Kolts, residential systems coordinator, other members of the residential staff, and a student. This board determines which groups shall receive houses after students present their theme.

This year's superblocs are made up of a diverse group of upperclassmen with varying ideas on how to improve the campus community through programming.

Blake Shapskinsky '15, who organized the Collective Mind superbloc, hopes to take advantage of the house's size and reputation as a hotspot for social life on campus to create a forum for thoughtful discourse.

"It was incredible to see how the issue of divestment instigated campus-wide debate," said Shapskinsky. "We would like to replicate at least some of that."

Shapskinsky said he got the idea for the Collective Mind superbloc after watching

Intelligence Squared, a UK-based debate program that stages Oxford-style debates between experts on a wide array of topics.

Shapskinsky and the members of the block plan to replicate this program in the hopes of drawing a diverse crowd of students to the house by hosting various professors and speakers as well as knowledgeable student to debate topics of interest. The group has already begun planning debates, with topics which include the legality of marijuana and the morality of Guantanamo Bay.

The group that will be residing in Meeker House, the "Exploration and Adventure" block, hopes to push its members and other students to step outside of their comfort zone.

"We purposefully left the theme open-ended because we did not want to limit the scope of our theme," explained Kevin Tenenbaum '15. According to Tenenbaum, the group plans to host activities ranging from maple sugaring to a community discussion about death and mortality.

"Discomfort does not pertain to one certain type of experience," said Tenenbaum. "Hopefully Meeker will allow us to demonstrate that through various activities."

The Mods will also house Superblock groups next year. In the Norgay Mod, the "Around the World" block, a group of internationally inclined students who will be going abroad in either the fall or spring will theme their block around their experiences in foreign locales.

"We want to do forums and discussions based on travel," said Zoe Kaslow '15. "The

goal is to not only discuss our personal experiences abroad but also to give advice to those who plan on studying in a foreign country at some point in their Middlebury careers."

The members of Norgay will also seek to build a strong relationship with the Study Abroad Office on campus and establish the mod as a place any student can visit with questions or concerns before they go abroad.

Homestead House, which has been awarded to the Superplay superbloc, will encourage its members to be physically active.

"Everyone who will be living in our house had the shared experience of playing outside as children," said James Clifford '14. "We all believe that the type of mental and physical stimulation is a valuable asset."

"We thought Homestead was particularly well suited to our theme because of the size of its lawn," Clifford added. "We will have the space we need to get outside and fulfill the mission of our theme."

The group has many events planned, including hosting an outdoor barbeque in conjunction with the Community Friends program in both the fall and spring of the next academic year.

The other Superblocks themes have a wide variety of themes, from Baking in the Earhart Mod to Intentional Living in Munford, and next year's houses will provide the student body with a varied range of social spaces and activities.

## College reduces waste, wins award

By Viviana Lozano

On Thursday, March 28, Middlebury received the Food Recovery Challenge Achievement Award, earning recognition from the Environmental Protection Agency for increasing organics diversion in 2011. By using disposed food products for higher and better purposes such as composting, the college has contributed to the recovery of more than 2,000 tons of food waste amongst seven New England colleges.

Middlebury has been part of a composting program since 1993, celebrating its 20th year this spring. Approximately 7,000 meals are prepared daily on campus and over 90 percent of food waste generated is diverted to produce 15,000 cubic yards of compost annually. The mixing and turning process is carried out on Middlebury's own site, located on South Street. All compost produced is utilized on campus and is continuing to sustain the schools 66 percent diversion rate.

However, despite the success with which campus composting efforts have been met, food waste levels at Middlebury

have not been cut. According to Missy Beckwith, manager of the Bread Loaf campus and waste management, food waste levels have increased just as much as composting has grown.

"To say that we've reduced food waste I don't think is accurate," she said.

In discussing the EPA award, she brought attention to the most important step in decreasing food waste levels on campus, which begins in the dining hall, and more specifically, on the server line.

Students are returning plates with larger amounts of food that, sometimes, appear to be untouched, according to dining staff at dish returning stations. Perhaps, composting is giving some students the idea that discarding food is not a form of waste since most food waste becomes compost, but this would be inaccurate to believe, as Beckwith explained.

"If compost goes up, it means that we are potentially wasting more food and the resources that go into making that food," she said.

Along with the issue of stolen plates from the dining hall, which has persisted for three years, excessive food waste has

also become a consequence of the liberal meal plan Middlebury offers. Students are often serving themselves unreasonably large portions of food, generating greater post-consumer waste and in turn, sending an inaccurate indication to dining staff of the amount of food that should be prepared. Food dropped on the counter or the floor has also become another form of food waste, which has been brought to the attention of many by the display in Proctor Dining Hall, where a bucket with food scraps gathered up off the floor has been placed.

Noah Berman '13 shared his opinion on the display and issue. "I think that [the display] is an effective way to demonstrate to people that the problem exists," he said.

In the discussion of the EPA Award, which has been well earned and proudly received, facilitators commended Middlebury on its 20 years of composting and its continued efforts to recover food waste, but they also expressed strong encouragement of students to recognize their position of influence in the reduction of food waste.

### BBQ DRAWS A CROWD



On Friday, April 5, approximately 40 students gathered in front of Gifford Hall for local burgers provided by student organization Eat Real. The cookout was the first event for "real food" week. Above, Olivia Noble '13 serves Sam Murray '13 a burger.

## MCAB'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MIDDLEBURY?

### Free Friday Film ▶

Silver Linings Playbook  
FRIDAY AT 7 & 10 P.M.  
DANA AUDITORIUM

### Timeflies

MCAB's spring concert!  
go/rageyourface & go/  
timeflies for tickets  
FRIDAY AT 8 P.M.  
PEPIN GYM

### Trivia Night

21+ and two forms of ID  
THURSDAY AT 9 P.M.  
THE GRILLE





# 'Transom' features Forsthoeffel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gredients in an experience that would give me a potent learning experience. And I thought walking might have some of those ingredients," Forsthoeffel said.

Forsthoeffel set off from his home with a mandolin and a 50-pound backpack holding a tent, beef jerky, maps and a few other necessities. He also wore a sign that said "Walking to Listen."

The documentary narrates Forsthoeffel's travels across America, from voice to voice, linking each new location with a person who has something that needs to be said. The comments range from stories of lost loves and sky-diving, to those that provide advice on how to live.

The second half of the documentary explores the idea of age, as well as the fear that Forsthoeffel encountered and overcame during his walk.

"Finally it hit me. I could actually die out here [in the desert]. From then on, I was fear-walking," he said. Later in the piece, he added, "But I am in the forest, and I know it's not a scary place. And the fears of death I had been carrying with me, in that moment, were gone."

Even when Forsthoeffel finished walking, he did not know what the stories would become. He thought of creating an archive, of making a series, of setting up a gallery to combine photos with voices and of incorporating walking in the presentation of his work.

Allison, who worked closely with Forsthoeffel to create the piece, believed that the medium of radio was perfect for this project.

"Andrew captured audio on his walk — not video. He is an amazing listener. What could be better for radio?" he said.

Allison also explained the impact Forsthoeffel's journey has already made on the town of Woods Hole, Mass.

"It's a testimony to [Forsthoeffel] that, in his short time here, he has come to know so many people. The town hall was overflowing. People who didn't know [him] before we played the piece certainly knew him afterward, and they gave him a prolonged standing ovation. It was a lovely night."

Forsthoeffel agreed, saying, "It felt



COURTESY THERESE JORNLIN

Over the past year, Andrew Forsthoeffel '11 walked 4,000 miles across the United States with a sign that read, "Walking to Listen." On Wednesday, April 3, Forsthoeffel and his co-producer Jay Allison held a listening event in Woods Hole, Mass. for the release of their hour-long radio documentary for transom.org.

great to be in the room hearing people hear the piece, which is a representation of my year [and] of me. I was very humbled to see so many people show up. I couldn't have dreamed of a more perfect way to end it," he said. Forsthoeffel added that he was very thankful to Jay, his family, and everyone he was met throughout all areas of his project.

The piece has also been well received by online listeners. Zak Rosen, one of the many people who have commented on the piece on Transom.org, explained why Forsthoeffel's piece resonated with him.

"There's so much wisdom here, without it once feeling didactic or patronizing," he wrote. "And the bit at the end — about being in the dark forest, as opposed to looking into it — if only all our work could shed such light on the human existence with so few words and artifice."

Daniel Brayton, associate professor of English and American literatures, was also impressed by the piece.

"Here's a young man who had the courage to throw himself to the winds, putting himself at the mercy of all kinds of strangers as he walked across this country," he said.

"Very few have the courage to pursue adventures like this one, and even fewer have the talent to record and convey their experiences so compellingly."

Sue Halpern, a scholar-in-residence at the College who introduced Forsthoeffel to audio, added, "It reflects precisely who Andrew is. It is, as he is, honest, searching, sincere, and I think that because he is all of those things, people opened up to him all along the way," she said. "It's the best audio piece I've heard, hands down. I think it should be required listening for anyone who aspires to grow up."

In making this radio piece, Forsthoeffel created a way for listeners of any age and stage in life to access the stories he unearthed during his walk and to take from them whatever each listener needs the most. As Allison noted, "This is a great piece for young people about old people, and this is a great piece for old people about young people."

Next, Forsthoeffel intends to write something about his walk, telling the stories that cannot be captured through audio. Beyond that, though uncertain of his next move, Forsthoeffel wants to keep listening.

## Umoja to host conference

By Viviana Altamirano

On Saturday April 13, Umoja, Middlebury's African Society, will host the Amka Africa Conference in collaboration with the Middlebury Center for Social Entrepreneurship (MCSE) to discuss how business and youth entrepreneurship are changing the face of commerce within Africa and beyond its borders.

President of the UMOJA Aminata Deme '15, a native of Senegal, Africa, explained the group's motivation to host the event.

"We see a change in the rhetoric about Africa," she said. "Recently business gurus and economists and entrepreneurs are talking about Africa as [the] next big thing, the next big boom, the next Asia — or the next frontier. We want Middlebury students to be part of that, we want them to be aware of that, [and we want them] to see the dynamic changes occurring in Africa," she said.

"Amka Africa means Awake Africa in Swahili," she said. "With this conference we wanted to highlight the growth and potential of the continent."

Deme pointed to the College's relatively high number of international students, and explained that she hoped that the event would expose a greater number of students to the culture of Africa. She explained that the event will include a fashion show, artistic performances, a gala and an after party co-hosted by Distinguished Men of Color (DMC).

The conference will begin with an opening note by a young entrepreneur, innovator and scientist, David Moinina Sengeh. "The

many things he does in Africa, such as creating prosthetic limbs for paralyzed people in Sierra Leone, will be an inspiration for the youth. We felt it was important to have a

conference that doesn't just state facts. We also want this to be an opportunity for youth to take a proactive stance," Deme said.

The conference will continue with a talk by Assistant Professor of Political Science Nadia Horning to "enlighten and delve into the topic of corruption and unethical leaders," according to Deme.

"Africa is a dynamic continent, and it is important to look at it as it is, not as how we think it should be," said Horning. "It is refreshing to see that UMOJA students have decided to highlight that the continent is one of hope and positive change, at least from the perspective of the educated youth. The initiative was not born out of frustration and despair, but simply from the desire to present the continent as it is at present: booming in all sorts of ways."

Fred Swaniker, the CEO and co-founder of African Leadership Academy, will also participate in the conference through video messages.

"His story is the best way to go about changing Africa to educate its youth. He

created a high school to unite Africa," said Deme.

As the conference nears, Middlebury students have shown excitement for the upcoming events.

**"If people want to know what kind of role as a global community they can have in changing Africa in a positive way, their answer will be at the Amka Africa Conference."**

AMINA DEME '15  
PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN  
STUDENT ORGANIZATION

"I'm interested in entrepreneurship and finding creative solutions to community issues," said Erin Reid '16, a student who intends to attend the conference. "I love hearing about the amazing things that people are doing around the world. It always makes me feel like I should be doing more with my life, but also inspires me to do more around me! Also, [Fred Swaniker] is dope and I'd love to hear what he has to say! I visited the school he founded,

African Leadership Academy, last year and I think the school is doing some really cool things."

According to Deme, the primary goal of the conference is for participants to enjoy their experience while continuing to broaden their understanding of the changes occurring in Africa.

"If people want to know what kind of role as a global community they can have in changing Africa in a positive way, their answer will be at the Amka Africa Conference 2013."

More information on the details of this event can be found at [Middleburyafrica.org](http://Middleburyafrica.org)

## OVERSEAS BRIEFING

BY NATE SANS'14

Monterey, Calif.

On Sunday, my buddy Trent tried to teach me how to surf. He kept an eye on the surf reports all day, and the swells were most forgiving at about five in the evening, so my roommate Joey and I piled into Trent's orange Honda Element and we drove about 10 minutes to Asilomar State Beach. As we drove, Joey and I peppered Trent with questions about his surfing experience and learned that he returned from working in Guatemala with the Peace Corps about a year ago, where he taught the children of his Guatemalan host-family how to surf. When Trent left the country he left his surfboards with them so that they could continue to enjoy the passion he had shared with them.

There weren't many people on the beach — the weather had alternated between partly-sunny, mostly-cloudy and partly-cloudy mostly-sunny all day — and most people just pull over to the side of the road that hugs the outside of the Monterey Peninsula and look at the ocean from the climate-controlled comfort of their vehicles.

We squeezed into wetsuits (I borrowed one of Trent's old ones — it fit surprisingly well), we grabbed a few boards and waded into the surf.

Trent is an excellent teacher — he patiently explained not only how to transition from paddling a board to standing on it, but also how to read the water for the right waves and for dangerous, strength-sapping rip currents. While Trent worked with Joey, I sat on the beach and watched the sun slowly sink behind a thick bank of rain clouds gathering over the Pacific Ocean. Eventually the clouds outnumbered the rays of sun, and the waves became choppy and broke further from the shore, making them more difficult to surf. Trent decided that the coming darkness and the lousy waves rendered surfing impossible for a beginner, so we called it a day and adjourned to a hole-in-the-wall Mexican restaurant for dinner.

While chatting over dinner Joey and I learned more about Trent's passion for surfing and for the ocean. Joey talked about his passion for social entrepreneurship — using business as a vehicle for bettering the lives of others. As an aspiring defense policy wonk, my academic and professional interests varied significantly from either of my companions', and I started to think about the many people with such varied passions I have met out here in Monterey, Calif.

To me this kind of diversity is different from that found at Middlebury. It is not manufactured through an admissions process, but rather it materializes as people vastly different in age, expertise and passions happen to converge in Monterey. Several weeks ago I enjoyed an Easter dinner with some friends — our group included an Egyptian woman pursuing an MBA, a French woman pursuing an MBA, a woman working towards a Master's degree in teaching English, a Minnesota native who enlisted in the Army immediately after high school and was assigned to the Army's Defense Language Institute (DLI, also located in Monterey) to learn Pashto and an Army officer and an Air Force officer, both French students at DLI.

When I left snowy Boston for Monterey, I didn't expect that I would experience anything vastly different from Middlebury — after all, the Monterey Institute is "A Graduate School of Middlebury College." But I have. I've made friends with people from far-flung corners of the globe — some married, some divorced, some surfers, some military, some veterans, some from the United States, some not — and that kind of broadening experience has been, to me, one of the most valuable yet unanticipated aspects of my time "abroad."



# Student apathy jeopardizes vitality of honor code

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Of course I was dismayed but sadly, not surprised," wrote Holmes — who served on the 2009 committee — via email. "I am in favor of having an honor code, but I don't think the current honor code is effective (at least not for exams)."

Holmes expressed that if she served on this year's committee, she would re-consider making "faculty presence" the default.

"Faculty can elect not to proctor exams if they so choose, but by changing the default, you remove the transaction cost associated with getting special permission to proctor," she wrote. "This should increase proctoring which would better ensure the academic integrity of the exam environment."

## WHY NOBODY REPORTS CHEATING

Reporting honor code infractions can be a stressful process for both students and faculty. Students who report cheating must go in front of the Academic Judicial Board and face the person they have accused, which has become a challenging deterrent in a such a small community.

"There's no carrot besides feeling good about your personal integrity, which is important, but hard to institutionalize," said Bree Baccaglini '15.

Professor of Mathematics Steve Abbott said he understands student trepidation with reporting their peers.

"It takes an emotional toll, there's no way around that," he said. "But if a student were to bring a case forward, their responsibility would only be to tell what they know. They don't have to be a trial lawyer — it really is the system's job."

Abbott called the low peer reporting numbers "potentially scary," and raised the possibility of changing the language in the code to make failing to report a peer cheating an actual violation in itself — similar to criminal complicity laws — instead of a moral infraction.

"If it became a violation for you not to say what you knew, it might be easier for people to report their peers," he said.

Abbott said that the focus on enforcing the honor code across the faculty is "uneven."

"There are instances of faculty members handling cases on their own and their reasoning is that their perceived impressions of the judicial process are unpleasant and inefficient and that the system doesn't work," he said. "But people who go through the process say it is fair, reasonable and difficult, but that it fundamentally works."

Abbott chose to go through the Judicial Affairs Committee for all of the infractions he encountered and endorsed it wholeheartedly.

"In every case, things have gone in a positive way," he said. "It has relieved me of having to be judge and jury."

Holmes uses her experiences going through the Academic Judicial Board as a reminder to her students of the consequences of cheating.

"I also remind my classes that I have brought several students before the Judicial Academic Judicial Board for cheating and plagiarism over the years, and while it is not a pleasant experience for me, it is something I will do to uphold my responsibility. I warn them [cheating] is just not worth it."

## MAKING UP FOR PAST SGA BLUNDERS

The recommendation to strike the no proctoring clause was never implemented because of strong opposition from the Student Government Association (SGA), who asserted it would not pass the two-thirds student vote needed to make structural changes to the code. This led SGA, Faculty Council and Community Council members to hash out the current language of the code.

"I think both the faculty and the students came away from those meetings thinking they had won, which in essence is the perfect agreement," said Guttentag.

A major aspect of the agreement was the establishment of a new cabinet post in the SGA dedicated to chairing the Academic Honesty Committee. Aseem Mulji '11.5 was put in charge of the committee, according to faculty meeting minutes from May 13, 2009.

"He explained their goal to make the honor code more visible, and provide broader discussion of philosophical and practice is-

sues," read the notes. "Mr. Mulji stressed that students still care about the honor code and are committed to making it work."

But the Academic Honesty Committee never materialized.

"It needs to be acknowledged that last time, promises were made that did not happen, but I'm hopeful that something really positive can come out of that," said Guttentag, who praised this year's SGA leadership. "There is no way that this can be entirely on the faculty and administration. Students need to take on shared responsibility."

Current SGA President Charlie Arnowitz '13 is trying to hold up the students' end of the bargain. While he pointed out that the yearly turnover within the SGA results in promises easily falling through the cracks from one administration to another, he made no excuses for the 2009 SGA blunders.

"We're going to do what wasn't done in 2009, and do it better," he said.

The result would be the Honor Code Student Committee, which Arnowitz is helping to create before he leaves office and will transition responsibilities to his successor.

Arnowitz said the goals of the committee would be to solicit student participation, conduct research on best practices at peer institutions with honor codes and find ways to involve the code into the broader student culture at the College.

"This is totally student driven," he said. "We need to inculcate the honor code into everyday student life. One hard question we will have to answer is whether an honor code is worth it."

Arnowitz said he had already received "a lot" of applications for the committee. But the SGA is fighting a pitched battle against what some see as student apathy about the future of the honor code.

On March 7, the SGA sent out an all-student email inviting students to attend a "community forum" surrounding the honor code with Collado, Guttentag and members of the SGA. But when the night came, only two students showed up — the *Campus* had three people covering the event.

While Arnowitz blamed the low turnout mainly on the remoteness of the Atwater location, he acknowledged the low turnout was "a little troubling."

Failings on the part of the student body to uphold its end of the honor code — abysmal peer reporting, general student apathy and past SGA blunders — have led some faculty to question whether the honor code is nothing more than a first-year signature.

"I think students themselves have to decide if they want a strong honor code on campus — if so, then they should look for ways to create a student community that is not tolerant of cheating," wrote Holmes in her email. "Perhaps students are content with current levels of cheating and enforcement?"

"I don't think that's the case, but maybe things have changed," said Arnowitz, sighing. "It's key to make sure students know what is at stake here."

One of the main goals of the Honor Code Student Committee will be to show faculty and administrators that things have changed since 2009, according to Arnowitz.

Jackie Yordan '13, who is serving on the Academic Judicial Board and the Honor Code Review Committee, said the key is to get students talking more about the code. She pointed to the It Happens Here campaign to promote awareness of sexual assault as a roadmap.

"We need to make the honor code as talked about as we have made the issue of sexual assault this year," said Yordan. "We want the changes to come from students."

The level of value placed on the honor code runs the gamut depending on the student.

"Having students take responsibility for their work is huge, because if you don't take responsibility now in college, then why will you take responsibility for your work at any time subsequent?" said Ian Thomas '13.5,

who is on the Academic Judicial Board. "This is your last real opportunity to learn it."

Baccaglini said that after First-Year Orientation, there isn't enough follow up.

"I'll run into tour guides in McCullough saying, 'This is one of the hallmarks of Middlebury,' and I'll walk away saying, 'Maybe it is, but I don't know,'" she said. "Theoretically, students take it as an indication of trust from professors, but I'm hesitant to say students really care about it. Who here wakes up every day saying, 'I'm so glad I go to a school with an honor code!' Nobody."

But Baccaglini said that both students and the College have a long-term interest in the code.

"I think Middlebury has an investment in keeping [the honor code] and that students, at least on an abstract level, do as well," she said. "Every time I sign a test, I'm not bathed in the light of honor, but I think that students feel it's a valuable part of our experience."

## POISONING THE WELL OF TRUST

Guttentag said that one of her primary goals this time around is to elucidate what she called "the real tangible costs of my cheating on you." One tangible result is the loss of some faculty members' trust in students.

"Many students assume that because of the honor code, professors have to inherently trust them," said Guttentag. "But that's not the way trust works."

Abbott, the math professor who serves on the Honor Code Review Committee, was tapped to serve on the current committee because of what he described as "my unusually high number of encounters with [Guttentag] in the last two or three years."

He estimated that he has had to bring five accusations of cheating to the judicial board over the past two or three years. While Abbott stressed that his experiences are not the norm among his colleagues, he acknowledged that the infractions have changed the way he grades.

"I do now approach grading in a mindset that's more suspicious than I used to be," he said. "And it doesn't feel good."

"I have had experiences where I will see a solution by a student that surprised me in its elegance and ingenuity and the natural reaction to that as a professor is a sense of elation at the success of the student. Now that has to be filtered through a lens of, 'Is this a real event based on this person arriving at a point of insight or did something improper happen to produce it?'"

Abbott is also attacking the notion some people at the College hold that cheaters are "only hurting themselves."

"The freedom to think up the best possible assignment is dependent on the honor code working in some kind of robust way," he said. "When you get out of that mode and start second-guessing whether or not the student's approach to an assignment is an honest one, then you've given up something. Everybody loses."

While Abbott is concerned about the vitality of the code, he repeatedly stressed his optimism in a bright future.

"Have I lost the rose-colored glasses? Yeah. But I don't think we're in a crisis. [...] I haven't gotten the feeling that we're on some precipice."

## CHANGING PEDAGOGY

The affect cheating has had on faculty already depends greatly on whom you talk with. But even the most ardent faculty supporters of the honor code said they've changed their pedagogy in response to cheating.

"I've been a supporter of the honor code for decades," said Charles A. Dana Professor of Mathematics John Emerson. "I'm happy to say that it's been a very long time since I've had a plagiarizing issue with my students."

Emerson's perspectives come from a long involvement with the code, including stints as the chair of the Judicial Review Board and as the head of the Academic Judicial Board in the past. He said the effectiveness of the

code can be enhanced by drawing attention to the importance of the Middlebury Honor System.

"It can be very constructive for any faculty member to take a few minutes at the beginning of a course to explain the relevance of the honor code as it applies to a particular course," he said.

While Emerson always advises students that he will return to the classroom halfway through exams to respond to questions or provide clarification, he does not support making proctoring exams the default.

"Proctoring would change the psychology of the classroom," he said. "My concern is that you don't want to create a game where students try to cheat by outsmarting the teachers."

Despite his unwavering support for the honor code, Emerson said that over the years he has adjusted his pedagogy by limiting the use of take-home exams.

"The reason I don't offer take-home exams is because good people who care about honesty can still cheat if they are under enough pressure," he said. "You get sick or you have a fight with your girlfriend and you still need to take that exam tomorrow and you are distracted and you panic."

All of the faculty members interviewed recognized the immense pressure many of their students were under to perform at high levels and the importance of limiting situations where students might be tempted to cheat.

For example, Abbott refuses to give self-scheduled exams for multi-sectional calculus because of what he called math's "ability to produce anxiety."

But Guttentag said that even professors accounting for these situations is a cost of cheating.

"Instead of faculty saying, 'What is the most engaging, creative way I can teach this material?' they have to say, 'How can I create a cheat-proof exam?'" she said. "You're not getting the best pedagogy from your professors."

## IS PROCTORING THE ONLY ANSWER?

The answer — almost unequivocally — is no. For now.

"I don't want to support a shift in the climate that surrounds an honor system," said Emerson, who proctored students during his graduate years at Cornell University. "That was definitely a more negative climate than is the case here at Middlebury in my classroom when my students are taking tests. I treat students with respect and I think they know intuitively that I don't assume that they want to cheat."

Abbott said that while the code isn't functioning at the highest level, restricting it would only make things worse.

"It really boils down to a sense that the honor code gets stronger when it's put to use," he said. "The best way to infuse it with meaning is to continue to invoke it by not proctoring. I think we're better putting it to use than restricting it due to abuse."

Administrators, faculty and students all agreed that dismantling the academic honor code would have negative consequences.

"Quite a bit would be lost without an academic honor code," said Joseph Flaherty '15. "You would lose the contract between students and faculty that says, 'We're going to treat our academic work with honesty and integrity.'"

"The culture would suffer for it," said Guttentag. "I think the majority of students are behaving honorably and that the honor code is a point of pride for them."

She said the administration is wary of creating a police state pitting students versus the administration.

"That's not the kind of culture we want to have here and the relationships we hope to foster," she said.

But at the end of the day, the health and fate of the honor code will rest with the students, something Arnowitz is acutely aware of.

"If the faculty and administration see students really making an honest effort in a way that is going to concretely continue next year, we will buy ourselves a couple years," said Arnowitz. "But that by no means ensures that when I come back for a reunion in five years, the honor code will still be here."



# College prioritizes financial aid

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

over 2,000 applications from students of color, which represents a 15 percent increase from last year and the accepted pool of students includes 11 percent more students of color admissions than last year.

"I believe an increase in diversity for the campus could only mean an increase in the range of experiences and an even more versatile incoming class," said Tim Garcia '14, co-president of the Distinguished Men of Color.

The admissions office received roughly 2,000 applications from international students this year, an increase of 8.7 percent from last year, with students applying from 129 different countries. Applications were received from all 50 states in addition to Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The admitted students to the class of 2017 are from 77 countries and all 50 states.

"After going to Toronto and presenting at a number of high schools for Middlebury, I am thrilled to see that the College has been receiving a greater number of international applicants," said Emma Kitchen '14.5, who worked with the admissions office. "The admissions office has been working very hard to do as many presentations as possible and it

has clearly been effective. [...] These students get to come to Midd and bring a whole different set of experiences, that I believe greatly adds to the colleges unique and driven student body."

12.3 percent of students applying to the College indicated on their application that they are the first member of their family to attend a four-year college, a 12.9 percent increase from last year. Of these first-generation students, 20.4 percent more were admitted than last year.

"The varied life experiences and talent of the Class of 2017 is a promising signal of the College's belief in the added value of diversity and inclusive excellence," said Dean of the College and Chief Diversity Officer Shirley M. Collado. "We are energized by the shifting demographics of Middlebury applicants from all around the country and the globe. These students are coming with life stories, broad perspectives and incredible appetite for learning on a College campus that is committed to providing dynamic learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom. I can't wait to meet these students and welcome them to our campus."

The College admits an average of 170 re-

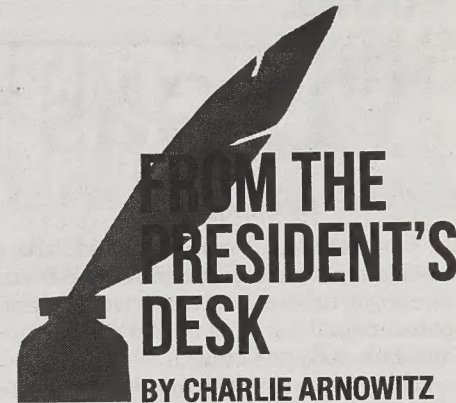
cruited athletes each year, and the number for the Class of 2017 is expected to be similar.

Financial aid was a priority for the Admissions Office this year; the College hopes to award approximately 43 percent of the incoming class aid. This will be the highest percentage in several years, though aid is always an important consideration.

"Financial aid has always been a top priority for [Middlebury]," said Associate Vice President for Student Financial Services Kim Downs-Burns. "Middlebury is one of the few colleges in the country that commits to a 'need-blind' admission process while meeting the full demonstrated financial need of every student. We expect to spend approximately \$9.5 million in institutional funding for the class of 2017, [and] we spent almost \$9.4 million last year for the class of 2016."

Admitted students are invited to campus for preview days on April 17-19, and have until May 1 to accept their position. The College anticipates that roughly 600 students will matriculate in September 2013 and another 100 in February 2014.

"We are looking forward to welcoming many of them during Preview Days, our accepted student's weekend," said Carballo.



Elections are determined by those who show up. It's springtime, Middlebury, and that means it's election season.

Middlebury College is an institution filled with leaders who want to give back to the community. When we arrive for first-year orientation, we meet former high school soccer team captains, newspaper editors, debate team presidents and perennial theatre stars. Each student here has a history of leadership and the capacity for future leadership, too. Many of us have continued this leadership at Midd. We might volunteer for the service cluster board, play varsity sports, join groups devoted to political action or sing in the College Choir. But there's more you can do to create positive change on campus.

Getting involved in the Student Government Association (SGA) is a fantastic way to be that change. As I've written in this space before, there are a number of ways to get involved with SGA that don't involve elected office: our varying committees' work run the gamut of campus life.

But running for elected office offers students the unique opportunity to deal with a wide range of issues on campus. Middlebury students are undoubtedly invested in our community's future. Some students are passionate about divestment or carbon neutrality; others might prioritize need-blind aid for international students, the future viability of our honor code or our core academic requirements. Any member of the Student Government Association can take an issue and run with it.

These issues each have a place in our community dialogue because of outspoken leaders who brought their messages to the student body — leaders like you. Middlebury is a unique place. Each of us has the ability to make our voices heard. While there are many avenues through which students may choose to be a leader on this campus, SGA is unique in its ability to represent student voices on issues across the board that matter to students.

Take the "We the Middkids" petitions for example. Students across campus are voting on issues ranging from taking cups out of the dining hall to reevaluating free Grille meals for varsity athletes. But voting only gets you so far. Someone needs to take the issues to the administration, someone needs to find sustainable solutions and someone needs to advocate for them.

Most students never consider running for office. But you should. Running is a fun way to meet more of your peers and to learn more about some of the challenges facing the College community. More importantly, however, after a successful campaign you have the opportunity to work with your peers to improve student life.

Even if you don't choose to run for office yourself, it's vital to stay involved in the civic process. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with each upcoming candidate's platform by reading the letters of intent they send out. You can attend the candidate debate — details to follow. And above all, make sure you vote!

On a personal level, I've really enjoyed my time with SGA, as a senator and as president. It's been perhaps the most formative of my many experiences here at Midd. As I count down the days until I become a lame duck, I'd encourage each of you to get involved as well.

Any student wishing to run for office must attend a mandatory informational meeting on Tuesday, April 16 at 4:30 p.m. in the Crest Room of McCullough (and no campaigning before then). The voting period will begin on Wednesday, May 1, and more information on the timeline of elections is available on the SGA website or go/sga. Until then, I look forward to hearing all of your great ideas for Middlebury's future on the campaign trail!

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

By Claire Abbadi

On Tuesday, March 9, Community Council met with the Mill's administration to discuss whether to continue to allow the social house to serve Purple Jesus, a mixed drink with vodka and grape powder served at Purple Jesus Night, a long-standing Mill tradition. The Mill hosts Purple Jesus three times a year, during which the drink is made in front of Public Safety, and the ingredients are posted in the Mill for anyone to see. The drink has the same amount of alcohol as a 5.4 percent beer.

As it stands now, the Mill is the only social house that is allowed to serve hard alcohol during registered parties.

This policy came out of a 2006 pilot program that offered social houses the option to host longer parties (an increase from four to five hours) with more registered alcohol (the amount of beer that could be registered increased from 4 to 5 kegs), but they would only be allowed to serve wine and beer. The Mill opted out of this program, but the other four social houses joined the pilot program.

The talks focused on whether the 2006 pilot program should remain a "pilot" or be made official college policy. The council also discussed whether the Mill should continue to be an exception to the rule.

"We wanted to have a wider review of the presence of hard alcohol on campus," explained Dean of Students Doug Adams. "Community Council seemed like a good place to have that wider discussion."

The catalyst for the conversation, however, was largely due to this past fall's Purple Jesus Night, during which a student was

transported to the hospital. Mill President Nate Brown '13 clarified that the student was marked as under-aged at the door and did not consume any alcohol, to his knowledge, at the Mill. He also commented on what he feels has been a largely successful job on the part of the Mill administration regarding to hard alcohol.

"We have found, in comparison to other parties, that we've been able to keep control just as well as any other group," said Brown. "Even [compared to] those who are serving beer while we are serving hard alcohol."

Brown also said that the Mill is the only social house that has had no alleged sexual assault reports from It Happens Here on its premises.

"We are providing [alcohol] in a safe environment and serving it like you would serve wine at a function," he said. "It is a big tradition to us and for many students, and this party is what people associate the Mill with. Our only goal is to keep hosting a party that we have been hosting for 20 years."

Many members of the council seemed to agree with Brown's sentiment that the Mill has been doing a good job in keeping students safe while serving hard alcohol.

"I'm impressed with how the Mill has handled this," said Kate Logan '13. "I don't see any catalyst to change the policy for the Mill."

"Up until now I haven't heard any reasons why the Mill should not be able to continue to serve alcohol," added Luke Carroll Brown '13.5.

Other members of the council, however, did express concerns. Dan Gaoitti, the asso-

## Council approves hard alcohol exception

ciate director of Public Safety, explained that Public Safety has to spend much more time at the beginning of the night at the Mill because regulating a mixed drink is a larger task than regulating keg beer. Likewise, inconsistencies among social houses can create problems.

"When you are outlining the guidelines for students in party workshops on how to register parties and be within the lines of college policy, inconsistencies often create confusion," explained Gaoitti.

Other members of the council thought about what other schools are doing.

"Most of our peer schools do not allow for the registering of hard alcohol," said Adams.

Dean of Students Shirley Collado agreed with Adams.

"When we did research nationally, it was general consensus, based on health and safety, that open containers of hard alcohol are prohibited on many campuses," she added.

Despite being able to serve hard alcohol, the Mill has been under the watchful eye of the administration.

The council agreed to vote on a motion that would make the 2006 pilot program into official college policy and let the Mill remain an exception.

A clause will be added detailing that if a social house wishes to switch from the pilot program to having hard alcohol, they could petition it as a group with the Inter-House Council (IHC).

The motion passed with 14 in support, two in opposition and three abstentions. In the weeks to come, Community Council will likely continue to look at the role of hard alcohol on campus.

## Students attend Clinton Conference

By Ilana Gratch

On April 5-7, five students attended the sixth annual Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) conference at Washington University in St. Louis. The students were selected from a pool of applicants from colleges and universities around the world to participate in the event. The trip was sponsored by the Middlebury Center for Social Entrepreneurship (MCSE).

Founded in 2007, the CGI U conference was inspired by the structure of former President of the United States Bill Clinton's Clinton Global Initiative, which brings together global leaders who are committed to facilitating change. CGI U draws the next generation's leaders together each year to discuss and debate problems within five "focus areas": Education, Environment and Climate Change, Peace and Human Rights, Poverty Alleviation, and Public Health. In order to participate in CGI U, educational institutions must commit to giving a minimum of \$10,000 in funding to students for the implementation of CGI U-selected projects.

The five students who attended the conference, Rana Abdelhamid '15, Rabeya Jawaid '16, Betty Kobia '16, Armel Nibasumba '16 and Rachel Sider '14, returned to cam-

pus feeling inspired by the weekend's events, which included a plenary session titled "Getting off the Ground: Stories of Starting Up," moderated by former President Bill Clinton and featuring remarks by Chelsea Clinton, as well as alumnus Shabana Basij-Rasikh '11.

"It was super inspirational to be able to engage and build relationships with such incredibly passionate young people," Abdelhamid said. "The entire experience just made me so much more optimistic about the future."

To apply for a ticket to the conference, students had to submit a "Commitment to Action," detailing a plan of implementation for a challenge of their choice that falls within one of the five focus areas. CGI U then selected 1,200 students to receive grants ranging to make their proposed commitments a reality. The five Middlebury students who participated in CGI U received funding in the form of two MCSE summer grants: a Davis Project for Peace grant and a MCSE fellowship.

Jawaid, who hails from Karachi, Pakistan, received \$3,000 from MCSE to implement her Commitment to Action over the summer to provide deaf women in Pakistan with vocational training.

Jawaid worked with deaf Pakistani women two summers ago and wanted to continue her project, but lacked the necessary funding until now. Using her MCSE grant, Jawaid will purchase sewing machines to enable women to make and sell clothing.

"Before Middlebury, I knew I wanted to make a change," Jawaid said. "But here there's so much studying and it's so busy, so [CGI U] is a great way for me to get back to what I believe in and get inspired again."

Jawaid was impressed by the College's commitment to CGI U, as the MCSE paid for her and the other students' plane tickets and hotel fees.

"The school is really committed to helping students attend CGI U and carry out their projects," she said.

MCSE Associate Director of Operations and Development Heather Neuwirth '08 is excited that the students had the chance to participate in such a special conference.

"It's a really important chance for our students to learn about projects of other like-minded undergraduate and graduate students," she said.

The MCSE will be posting a recap of the CGI U conference for those who could not attend within the next couple of weeks.



# Vt. Gas pipeline brings controversy

By Conor Grant

On March 22, a number of Middlebury residents attended a public service board meeting to debate the construction of a proposed natural gas pipeline that will run underneath Addison County.

This plan — which involves the construction of a natural gas pipeline from Chittenden County down through Addison County to Ticonderoga, N.Y. — is part of a two-part project undertaken by an energy company based in northern Vermont called Vermont Gas.

Despite the endorsement of the project by a number of large institutions in the Addison County area, town residents are worried about the disruptive impact of the pipeline in their towns and on their farms and the environmental impact of the gas, much of which is derived from the controversial process of hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking." Residents have launched an opposition campaign to prevent the approval of the project by the public service board.

Vermont Gas Systems, operating in Chittenden and Franklin Counties, is spearheading the effort to install natural gas pipelines in order to expand natural gas infrastructure to the middle and southern counties of Vermont. Vermont Gas currently provides energy to roughly 40,000 Vermonters by means of a network of more than 650 miles of subterranean pipelines and, as the *Campus* reported in January, the company recently built a natural gas pipeline from Canada to Chittenden County.

The expansion and diversification of Vermont's energy array is an ongoing project that has been undertaken by Vermont Gas's parent corporation, Northern New England Energy Corporation (NNEEC). NNEEC is the parent company of Vermont Gas, Green Mountain Power and Portland Natural Gas Transmission System.

A larger Quebec energy conglomerate called Gaz Metro administers the NNEEC. Gaz Metro is affiliated with multinational Canadian-based energy corporations Enbridge and Transcanada. This broad network of stakeholders complicates decisions made by Vermont Gas on the ground. Anna Shireman-Grabowski '14.5, an opponent of the proposed pipeline, explains how the complexity of the politics within the natural community can be problematic for local Vermont populations.

"You're dealing with Gaz Metro, [which is] a Canadian company with an interest in Canadian fracking development," said Shireman-Grabowski. "Then you're dealing with Enbridge, who has expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure and general interests in mind."

Vermont Gas and associates began planning for the pipeline more than two years ago. In the early stages of discussion, Vermont Gas relied largely upon the support of several large institutions to legitimate its claims.

International Paper, a mill in Ticonderoga, N.Y., has been a proponent of the pipeline since the embryonic stages of the project's proposal. The second segment of the pipeline would terminate in Ticonderoga and provide the mill with an inexpensive source of fuel.

"They're trying to extend it through Addison County and part of Rutland County and under Lake Champlain to supply International Paper Company through a private contract," said Shireman-Grabowski.

The agreement to which Shireman-Grabowski is referring is a contract signed by the International Paper company last October to contribute \$70 million to the project, which will involve the installment of a pipeline 30 feet under Lake Champlain to deliver natural gas to the mill.

Cabot, another large industrial player in Middlebury who could benefit from the theoretically inexpensive and stable energy provided by a direct natural gas pipeline, also wrote a letter in support of the pipeline.

The third significant institutional endorsement of the pipeline was Middlebury College, which became interested in Vermont Gas while investigating the feasibility of establishing a biomethane transportation network. The College was interested in biomethane, a renewable fuel source that is derived from farm waste and cow manure, and it turned to Vermont Gas as a potential partner.

"Originally, the idea was that the College would invest in alternative infrastructure for the biomethane to go directly from the farms to the school," said Shireman-Grabowski.

The College and Vermont Gas had different visions for the biomethane transportation network, however. While Middlebury proponents had envisioned a network that solely transported biomethane, Vermont Gas envisioned a dual-purpose pipeline that channeled both natural gas and biomethane.

Although this plan would put a small amount of biomethane into the system, it would require the construction of significant pipeline natural-gas transportation infrastructure. Shireman-Grabowski and others criticize this concept on the grounds that the slim benefits of the biomethane will be outweighed by the perpetuation of reliance on fossil-fuel infrastructure.

"The College can write it off as carbon neutrality even though in order to achieve that Vermont Gas had to build this massive state-long pipeline bringing fracked gas from Canada," said Shireman-Grabowski. "The externalities are just overwhelmingly huge."

Shireman-Grabowski suggested that if the College were to seriously look into biomethane, it must do so independently.

Upon learning that the College endorsed the pipeline, a number of students have opened up a dialogue with College administrators to formally rescind the letter of support issued two years ago.

"Students, faculty and staff are coming together to tell the administration we do not support their decision to endorse the pipeline and will engage with them in the process of revoking the College's support," said Molly Stuart '15.5, an opponent of the pipeline.

The natural gas that would be routed through Middlebury if the Vermont Gas project were to come to fruition would largely come from deposits in Alberta. It relies on a system of underground pipelines that transport the gas from western Canada to Quebec. Although initial plans revolved around conventional drilling techniques, most of the oil-drilling sites are switching to the process of fracking.

"It's important to know that when they signed that letter, nobody knew that the gas was going to come from fracking," said Shireman-Grabowski. "Originally Vermont Gas had stated that it would all be from conventional drilling."

Fracking — the highly controversial process of injecting high-pressure fluid into shale deposits to release trapped pockets of natural gas — represents a technological practice that is not yet fully regulated. The process requires a dangerous cocktail of toxic chemicals that, when employed irresponsibly, can contaminate drinking water and cause severe environmental degradation.

"Vermont [considers fracking to be] so dangerous that we will never allow this in our state," said Shireman-Grabowski, referencing a Vermont law that bans fracking. "But yet here we are putting in infrastructure that allows [fracking] to happen in Alberta, allows that to happen in New York and puts other communities in danger."

Critics of the natural gas pipeline point to the potential environmental damage caused by fracking, and the disruptive impact of the physical pipeline in their backyards and on their farms, as evidence that the environmental toll of the proposed pipeline is far too great.

Supporters of the pipeline, however, counter these claims with the argument that the project will provide a number of environmental benefits to the state of Vermont. According to Vermont Gas, the project will reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions by 16,000 tons per year, reduce energy usage by creating greater fuel efficiency and reduce the number of large transport vehicles on the road and their emissions.

Although much of the debate is centered on the environmental implications of the natural gas provision, dialogue also focused largely on the economic ramifications of the proposed pipeline.

Gaz Metro's massive scale and broad network has a number of implications at the local level. According to Shireman-Grabowski, 24 of the 35 people who spoke out in support of the pipeline at a recent



VERMONT REGIONAL ENERGY NEWS

Vermonters spoke out against the Vt Gas pipeline prior to meeting with officials.

public service board meeting worked for Vermont Gas or a company from which Vermont Gas had already solicited support.

The argument for the pipeline offered by the 11 unaffiliated advocates was that the pipeline would lower energy costs for Vermonters. According to Gaz Metro, natural gas has been 30 percent cheaper than electricity for the average business, and 24 percent cheaper than electricity for a small business in the last twelve years.

"In total the project will reduce Addison County's energy bills by over 200 million over the next 20 years," said President and CEO of Vermont Gas Don Gilbert in a press release.

Shireman-Grabowski noted, however, that opponents of the pipeline also advanced an economic counter argument. Critics of Vermont Gas argue that the pipeline is highly economically inefficient. Arguments focus on the fact that money could better be spent elsewhere.

"People have been making really strong economic argument against the pipeline," said Shireman-Grabowski. "It will only reduce Vermont's CO2 emissions by 0.16 percent, whereas investing \$66 million in weatherizing simply the majority of the homes in Addison County would save an amount of energy vastly larger than that."

In the initial proposal, Vermont Gas outlined a timeline in which the pipeline would be live by late 2014. The numerous opponents to the pipeline, however, have already introduced a number of complaints that will delay the process for at least a year and perhaps indefinitely.

Tension is increasing as Vermont Gas

begins the preliminary surveying for the pipeline even without the final decision of the public service board.

"We have every reason to believe that somebody from Vermont Gas contacted someone in the Vermont transit authority and asked them to take down the signs," said Shireman-Grabowski, referencing an incident in which a municipal employee who, at the insistence of Vermont Gas officials, took down a number of protest signs that had been put up by opponents of the pipeline. "They're playing dirty before they've even got approval for this project, which just goes to show you how much they're counting on it going through."

The public service board will select a number of opponents as formal "interveners" in coming weeks. These people will lodge formal complaints and form the basis for the debate over the commencement of phase one of the project, which will ultimately be decided upon in a public service meeting on September 11. In coming weeks, Shireman-Grabowski and number of Middlebury students — many of whom have already attended public service board meetings to offer their perspectives — will meet with President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz and Vice President and Treasurer for Finance Patrick Norton to discuss the option of formally rescinding support for the pipeline.

Representatives of Vermont Gas will be in attendance at a town meeting in Middlebury on April 15 on Monday night. Middlebury students and faculty are encouraged to attend and offer their perspectives on the issue.



ADDISON INDEPENDENT

International Paper, above, will be one of the primary recipients of natural gas.



# Vermont legislature proposes marijuana decriminalization

By David Ullman

Vermont's House of Representatives judiciary committee recently passed a controversial piece of legislation called Bill H.200 in an effort to decriminalize small amounts of marijuana, which would change the manner in which persons found to be in possession of marijuana will be prosecuted. This legislation would have a significant impact on the enforcement of marijuana-related crimes.

The legislation was created in large part due to the variety of enforcement mechanisms that exist in different counties in Vermont. According to Representative Linda Waite-Simpson (D), the legislation is meant to remedy this problem.

"[H.200] is about making sure that we are allowing Vermonters across the state to be treated equitably in the criminal justice system," said Waite-Simpson.

According to representative Christopher Pearson (Progressive), each county treats marijuana possession differently. Waite-Simpson explains officers in Chittenden have effectively decriminalized marijuana.

In areas like Chittenden County, police officers routinely throw away small amounts of marijuana and issue warnings rather than pressing criminal charges.

Other counties, however, impose harsher regulations on marijuana possession. In Addison County, for example, residents are charged and punished through Vermont's criminal justice system for the possession of any amount of marijuana.

"The penalty seems out of line with the act of possessing a small amount of marijuana," said Pearson.

H.200 would make marijuana possession under two ounces for individuals over 21 a civil offense (the same category as a speeding ticket), and mirror the laws for underage alcohol possession for others.

Many critics of harsh marijuana enforcement claim that the potentially disastrous consequences of marijuana possession are unfair.

Both Waite-Simpson and Pearson mentioned some of the serious repercussions of marijuana convictions under current law. People convicted of marijuana possession are often ineligible for federal financial aid for education, professional licenses and many job opportunities.

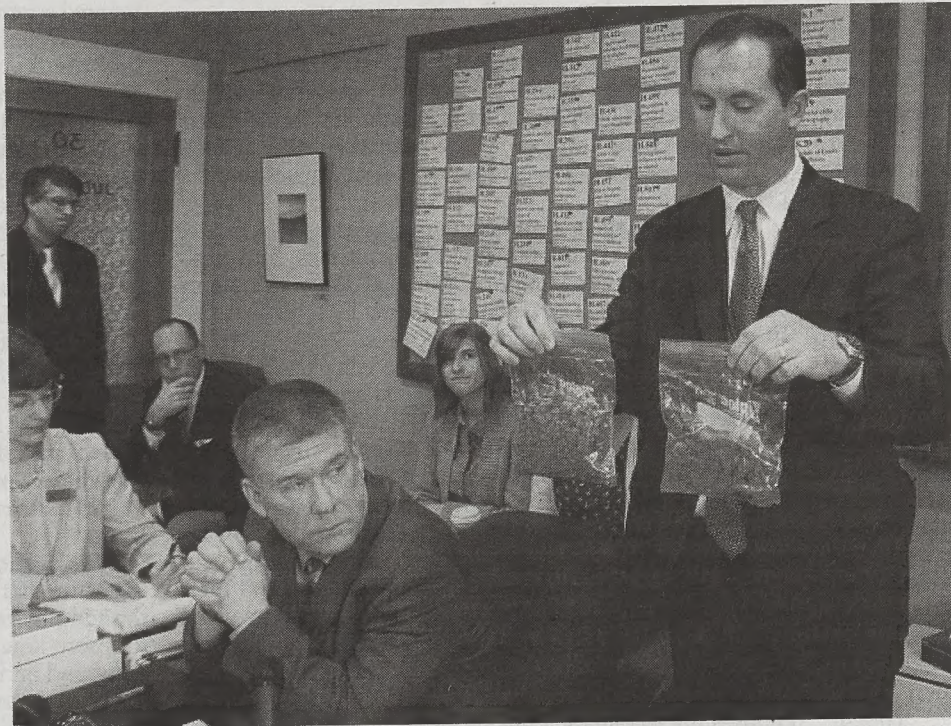
"We felt this was really something that would keep people in poverty from accessing tools that might get them out of poverty," said Waite-Simpson.

Pearson also mentioned this effort would save police departments \$750,000 and enable officers time to pursue more serious crimes.

Still, the issue of decriminalizing a controlled substance raises concerns.

"There is concern about the message to our young people," said Waite-Simpson, referencing other representatives' concerns that this bill will encourage teens to experiment with marijuana.

Other contentious issues include the difficulty in preventing "drugged driv-



A state public safety official shows legislators one and two ounces of marijuana.

ing." Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) — the active ingredient in marijuana — can remain in an individual's body for thirty days after usage. Since there is no equivalent of a breathalyzer for marijuana, reliable detection of marijuana users on the road is difficult for officers who are not generally equipped with blood testing equipment. The committee has considered assigning a task force to develop a procedure for effectively identifying high drivers.

Another contention involved is the

of a limited number of marijuana plants.

Despite these concerns, the bill enjoys high support in the legislature.

"I think there will certainly be a heated debate when it comes to the house floor — and perhaps the senate as well — but I think the votes are there," said Pearson in a recent statement.

More radical measures, like legalization, are not viable, according to Pearson. Vermont, unlike Colorado, has no referendum system and thus does not give voters — who are much more likely to oppose federal law — the right to change state law through direct democracy.

In addition, most Vermont legislators find full legalization to be too drastic of a change. Pearson is keeping his ambitions realistic in light of this fact. He and other proponents of drug-legislation reform are being careful not to inflame critics by taking one step at a time.

"We are dealing with a lot of important issues in Montpelier so I would not want to bog down in this one ... it is important but we are dealing with a lot more important things," said Pearson.

**"The [current] penalty seems out of line with the act of possessing a small amount of marijuana."**

CHRISTOPHER PEARSON  
VERMONT HOUSE LEGISLATOR (P)

**"[H.200] is about making sure that we are allowing Vermonters ... to be treated equitably in the criminal justice system."**

LINDA WAITE-SIMPSON  
VERMONT HOUSE LEGISLATOR (D)

specific quantity decriminalized. The current proposal decriminalizes marijuana under two ounces. Most states which have enacted similar measures decriminalize one ounce. Critics argue that two ounces is an excessive amount of marijuana for any individual to be carrying around. The committee also recently scrapped a clause that would decriminalize possession



A number of Vermont groups have expressed support for marijuana cultivation.

## LOCAL LOWDOWN

24

### Spring Fling Auction in Middlebury

The Middlebury American Legion will host the 11th annual live silent auction that includes supper/dessert bar and beverages. Proceeds benefit the Champlain Valley Christian School Capital Campaign Fund. Auction items will include gift certificates, art, lawn and garden, recreation and technology, farm and automotive, maple syrup, jewelry, many "premium" items and more. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12.50 at the door. Info: 877-6758.

APRIL 12, 6 P.M. - 10 P.M.

### Brain Injury Support Group Meeting in Middlebury

This confidential event will take place at the Hannaford Career Center in room A214 and will offer survivors and family members, caregivers, friends and the community a place to access valuable resources and information about brain injury. Safe, secure and confidential. Meets the second Tuesday of the month. For more info call 877-856-1772.

APRIL 12, 6 P.M. - 8 P.M.

### Otter Creek Classic Fly-Fishing Tournament in Addison County

The fifth annual fly-fishing tournament will be held this Saturday on the opening day of trout season. The catch-and-release tournament will be hosted on the Middlebury, New Haven and Neshobe rivers and Otter Creek. Rules, registration and information can be found at [mmvt.com](http://mmvt.com). Proceeds will benefit the New Haven River Anglers Association.

APRIL 13, 5:00 A.M. - 3:45 P.M.

### Trail Closure Workshop in Bristol

A free workshop titled "Forwarding Path and Skid Trail Closure" will be hosted at New Leaf Organics Farm at 4818 Bristol-Monkton Road. The event will be co-sponsored by Vermont Family Forests and Lewis Creek Association and will take place rain or shine. No pre-registration necessary. For more information call 802-453-7728 or [www.familyforests.org](http://www.familyforests.org).

APRIL 13, 9 A.M. - 12 P.M.

### "The Summer of Walter Hacks" on Screen in Starksboro

Starksboro Town Hall will feature a screening of the award-winning Vermont film "The Summer of Walter Hacks" on Saturday to benefit the Starksboro Village Meeting House belfry replacement project. There is a suggested donation of \$6 at the door, but any and all donations are appreciated and refreshments will be for sale. For more information call 802-453-3755 or 802-877-2262.

APRIL 13, 7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

### Sunday Brunch in Vergennes

Come to the St. Peter's Parish Hall this Sunday for a delicious breakfast that will consist of eggs, hotcakes, French toast, bacon, sausage and much more. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$6 for kids 6-12, free for kids under 6, and families of five or more \$27. Also remember to bring your recyclables to support the Youth Ministry bottle drive.

APRIL 14, 8 A.M. - 10 A.M.



# OPINIONS

The Middlebury Campus

## Navigating the housing maze

Middlebury students welcome the arrival of spring in many ways, the least pleasant of which may be stress related to housing. As randomly assigned housing numbers are released and superblock applications considered, many students become anxious at the prospect of securing "good" housing for the following academic year. Before considering why this system causes such stress for students, it is important to acknowledge that housing here reflects and enhances the overall liberal arts mission of the College in meaningful ways.

### EDITORIAL

The editorial represents the official opinion of *The Middlebury Campus* as decided by the editorial board.

At Middlebury, students are taught to think outside the box, make connections across a range of disciplines and engage with a variety of different perspectives. The fact that on-campus housing is guaranteed for all four years here facilitates these goals and helps to build a strong community in which discussions continue beyond the classroom and into organized events, casual lunch-time conversation and, of course, dorm life. Having the vast majority of students concentrated on campus as

opposed to scattered throughout the surrounding area facilitates a richer, more comprehensive learning experience and ensures that no student is too far from class, the dining hall, facilities or their friends.

In addition, it is hard to complain about the quality and diversity of housing options offered. Upperclassmen who live in interest houses, for example, enjoy great spaces themselves and offer engaging programming to the rest of the student body throughout the year. Few other schools can boast having language houses, social houses and superblocks as well.

Managing such a wide-ranging housing system for 2,500 students is undoubtedly a difficult task, and Residential Systems Coordinator Karin Hall-Kolts and others do an admirable job of placing students in a fair manner. In color-coded emails, students are given step-by-step instructions on how to navigate the housing process. The annual housing fair also gives students an opportunity to connect with the appropriate people and ask questions.

Despite these merits, however, housing anxiety arises each year, and with good reason in some cases. Upperclassmen assigned housing numbers have no way of knowing what numbers their peers have received, which makes coordinating with others and deciding which house to apply for difficult. Releasing a list of all students and their assigned numbers would likely reduce the stress involved with strategizing about the "right" house to apply for. Doing so would also clear up any incorrect assumptions that numbers are assigned unfairly. If the administration chooses not to release a full list of assigned numbers, students should take the lead and develop a voluntary system to share the information, making the process easier for everyone. Other measures to make the system more transparent include holding housing fairs after numbers have been released, giving students an opportunity to interact with Hall-Kolts and each other with more pertinent information.

mation.

The underlying cause of housing angst may also relate to the commons system itself, which was never fully implemented as envisioned; though original plans had proposed a more extensive system of neighborhood-like communities, the economic recession delayed the full completion of this project. While the poor timing is not the administration's fault, the commons system as a whole may hurt some students when it comes to housing. Obviously, everyone's experience is unique; some students love living with the same people for two years and value the relationships that otherwise may not have formed, while others feel that the system unfairly limits their options, making it harder to meet new students and live with friends. We understand that the commons system has logistical merits, as it reduces the number of students who must be entered into the campus-wide housing draw. However, the commons system does not work for everyone, including Febs who may feel isolated from their commons and awkwardly thrown into their sophomore year dorm after a semester elsewhere. The recent decision to allow sophomores to live in social houses may also open up more flexibility on this front.

While students, faculty and staff should work together to ensure that everyone has a positive housing experience, the administration itself will have to acknowledge the need for more housing space in the near future. Rising enrollment and an increasing number of students choosing not to study abroad make construction of new dorms or conversion of existing buildings likely in the coming years. With areas like the mods long past their expiration date and the future of large spaces such as Prescott House undecided, there is an opportunity to develop new housing options that appeal to broader swaths of the Middlebury student body and remain in line with the College's core liberal arts mission.

The Middlebury Campus

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## What's the Honor Code sans honor?

I wrote this week's honor code story while sitting in the lobby of a hotel on baseball's spring training trip in Tucson, Ariz. As players made their way to and from dinner, I casually polled the 20-or-so who asked me what I was doing about their thoughts on Middlebury's honor code.

### NOTES FROM THE DESK

Kyle Finck '14 is an investigative editor from Manhattan, N.Y.

"What honor code?" said one player. "It's a total joke."

The overwhelming majority concurred that the honor code was nothing more than a piece of paper they signed and then forgot about. While my straw poll — white, male athletes — is by no means representative of the student body as a whole, the responses confirmed the unspoken stench of student apathy I got while reporting on this story.

The reverence for the code by some has created a fiscal cliff of anxiety over what a Middlebury with no honor code would look like. But just as sequestration has turned out to be worse in theory than in reality, the same might be true with the code. If we woke up tomorrow without an honor code, would something be unalterably different?

From talking with Karen Guttentag, the majority of cheaters these days are not going through elaborate schemes of programming calculators or writing formulas on the inside of water bottle labels to gain an advantage. Most cheaters do not go into exams thinking they will end up cheating. It is the cumulative weight of multiple pressures that makes kids crack. As I heard over and over again, cheaters are often "good kids who make a mistake." So in many senses, the presence of a proctor in a test may deter a lot of exam infractions.

Middlebury students in 2013 are not unscrupulous compared

to their peers in the 1960s when the honor code was first instated. But the pressures students face today are undoubtedly more intense, leading many into a lose-lose situation of either cheating or falling short of expectation.

But the honor code has become so sacrosanct, that even the thought of having a professor sitting in an exam room is blasphemous. But what if the honor code isn't fundamentally working?

Students are cheating, but nobody wants to step up to the plate. The code is only as good as the students upholding it, which begs the question: is the honor code just something proudly peddled by tour guides and nostalgically pined by alumni?

If so, then something needs to change.

The student body is very reactionary by nature. Asking students to come discuss the future of the honor code was fruitless — two students showed up, while three *Campus* reporters, two faculty members and two administrators attended. Shirley Collado, Karen Guttentag and the rest of the administration work hard to avoid an us-versus-them mentality between students and Old Chapel. They want to see the student body show some gumption and try to fix the code from the inside out.

But in this case, I don't see students changing course and all of a sudden caring about the future of the code, despite Charlie Arnowitz's best effort. If the Honor Code Student Committee can't drum up student interest, maybe they should instate a pilot program of faculty proctoring for the 2013-2014 academic year. At the end of next year, task the student committee, community council and faculty council with deciding the fate of the honor code. Having one full year of proctoring would put a face on what an academic community without an honor code would look like. More importantly, it would garner the student respect and involvement that the conversation over the long-term health of the honor code deserves.



BY DYLAN LEVY



## BE SMART ABOUT STI TESTING

From the conversations I have had with students on campus, STI testing services seem to be underutilized, underappreciated and misunderstood. After seeing the results of the Student Government Association's all-campus survey and the shockingly low proportion of the student body that has utilized Parton's testing services, it is time for Middlebury to have frank conversations about sexual health.

Thinking back on the last four years of conversations I have had about the testing services on campus, the morale to get tested is — to put it lightly — low.

Perhaps testing services were mentioned during your new student orientation. During my first year, the director of health and wellness seemed to focus more attention on the free condoms all around campus than on the sound recommendation that students get tested with every new partner. Given the fact that there hasn't been a director of health and wellness for the past two years, all sexual health discussions and activities have taken a steep decline — a shame since it doesn't seem that sex on campus has taken a similar dip.

Perhaps testing services were mentioned in casual conversations with friends about sexual norms and healthy communication in the bedroom. During my sophomore year, a conversation with friends turned to the way that they talk about sexual health before hooking up with a new partner. Their answers varied from consistent communication before any kind of sexual contact to outright lying to a partner about having been tested to avoid further discussion on the subject. The range in responses, coming from a group of people that I knew to be well informed and responsible in their daily lives, was a shocking revelation.

Perhaps testing services were mentioned when a friend had questions about the accessibility of what is offered on campus. During my junior year, more than a few friends who wanted to be tested were turned away from doing so after finding out that, without insurance, they would have to pay a hefty fee for the

services. When I went to Parton to be tested, the nurse was kind and thoughtful but failed to mention that I could submit the information to my insurance provider rather than paying out-of-pocket. Given the variety of insurance providers students have, coverage will vary significantly. However, paying out-of-pocket or foregoing being tested are not a student's only two options.

All of these conversations have left me feeling frustrated with the campus culture around getting tested and the lack of accurate public information available about testing options on campus. Let me take one moment to clarify the latter: STI testing is available at Parton. You may submit your insurance information. If you are under a guardian's insurance, it is possible that they may see a statement showing you received testing services. If you choose to pay out-of-pocket, tests range greatly in price. If you cannot pay out-of-pocket and cannot submit your insurance information, an open line of communication with the Parton staff is encouraged. They are there to support you in exploring your options.

**"Fostering an open campus culture about getting tested may take some time. However, it is imperative that we take active steps in this direction."**

Fostering an open campus culture about getting tested may take some time. However, it is imperative that we take active steps in this direction. Many campuses do a fantastic job of promoting their testing services and destigmatizing what can be a frightening and vulnerable process for some students. Williams College, for instance, provides chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and HIV testing for students free of charge. Bowdoin and Colby have similar services. Other campuses, like Wesleyan, are beginning strong student campaigns demanding free testing services. There is no reason for Middlebury to lag behind when our peer institutions are leading the charge toward greater equity and accessibility of testing services. However, we must address the complex concerns of sexual health with our friends, peers and the College to make it happen. We must be willing to speak openly and honestly about the barriers to testing services, and we must support all students in this process. If you wish to join a group of dedicated students in this process, please reach out to me at [acunniff@middlebury.edu](mailto:acunniff@middlebury.edu) to get involved.

## This land is saved for you and me

Late last month, President Obama carried out his first major exercise of the powers granted to the president under the 1906 Antiquities Act, designating roughly 300,000 acres of land as new national monument area. This included land in New Mexico, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Washington State's San Juan Islands and the Rio Grande del Norte, a 240,000 acre sagebrush mesa near the New Mexico-Colorado border. Environmentalists have touted these selections as a victory by environmentalists in a time where policy change has been somewhat hard to come by, but do they bear any real significance in light of the other environmental problems currently faced by the country? I think they do.

"National monument" is a designation the President can give to public land of particular national, historic or ecological interest, and offers a reasonable degree of federal protection to the area. The designation protects the selected land against excavation and allows for the establishment of a management plan for the area's resources and wildlife.

Any action that would defy the management parameters would require an Antiquities Permit to be obtained from the Secretary of whichever department oversees the land. The act has been used over 100 times by United States presidents; one of its most notable usages was Jimmy Carter's designation of 56 million acres in Alaska as a means to buy time for the passage of the Alaska Lands Act in the 1970's, an act later undone after legislation was passed. The powers granted to the president by the act are unique in that use is largely left to executive discretion, and the president's proposals don't require Congressional approval. Several national parks, including the Grand Canyon, saw monument status as a precursor to park status.

While Obama's most recent usage is significant in that the Rio Grande constitutes his first landscape-scale designation, it seems unlikely that any of these new monuments are destined to join the national park system. In fact, the Rio Grande monument won't come with any changes in management. It is thought, however, that the creation of the monument will help bring heightened economic activity to northern New Mexico.

So how does the landscape-scale monument factor into the current political landscape faced by President Obama?

While the monument brings little significant change to the current state of Congressional gridlock, the new monuments mark a policy move that had been highly anticipated by environmentalists up until now. It's always refreshing to see that the President occasionally remembers some of his comments about his commitment to the environment that certainly helped him win over many a vote in last year's election. And I'll be able to sleep easy at night knowing that Republicans still know how to shout at policy that protects American lands from energy development. However, these monuments cannot serve as the political substitute for action on higher-profile ecological and energy decisions.

As we continue to wait on Washington's decision concerning the XL-sized elephant in the room, I find it hard to completely disregard the possibility that these monuments could be nothing more than a goodwill gesture. But the somewhat generous optimist in me can't help but hope that these new designations will serve as a kind of hors d'oeuvre anticipating the main course of policy decisions to come, preparing the opposition for what will hopefully be even greater policy wins. Calls for a carbon tax or a denial of Keystone may go unanswered for a bit longer. In the meantime, we should appreciate the fact that we've got 300,000 more acres — no small amount — of federally protected land, set aside for our enjoyment.

### GREEN PIECE

Julian Macrone '14 is from Clifton, N.J.

**"While the monument brings little change to the current state of Congressional gridlock, the new monuments mark a policy move that had been highly anticipated by environmentalists."**

## GET THE HECK OUT OF MY PRESS

The press, the democratic world's fourth estate, has never been more effective. In this, the age of information, news can reach us as quickly as it develops. We can now tweet and blog and IM the revolution, not to mention broadcast it. Freedom of the press has long been seen as essential in any free country, but in recent weeks, one nation, my very own, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, has scarily begun to repeal some of that freedom.

Following the enormous phone-hacking scandals of recent years, during which many of the UK's leading publications infringed on the freedoms of private individuals — often in a truly disgraceful fashion, from sleazily-obtained celebrity stories to the bribing of high-ranking police officers — a ministerial investigation led by Lord Lelveson was instigated. Subsequently, the 200-year-old newspaper *News of the World* was shut down in a vain attempt to ward off further accusations. Many of the most perverse and unsavory stories — such as the hacking of the cellphone of a kidnapped then murdered girl, Milly Dowler, that gave her parents false hope of her survival, all in search of a cheap scoop — were linked to Rupert Murdoch's behemoth

News International. That multinational corporation alone controlled close to a third of the British media and was trying to expand. The Murdochs were quizzed on live TV, much to the great amusement of most of the populace, myself included. But there always seemed to be something standing in the way of the real story. Murdoch senior's close ties to the ruling caste of British politicians, from all parties, was undeniable. He even had one of his paper's ex-editors, Andy Coulson, working in the government cabinet. Furthermore, the senior executive of the company, Rebecca Brooks, was a regular guest at Prime Minister David Cameron's house. Both of those former News International employees have been arrested and charged.

It's no surprise that the press needed a shake-up, but after months of deliberation, the legislature has agreed upon restrictions that have come to be seen by many as rather unwholesome. By resorting to a Royal Charter — sounds dodgy, I know — Parliament can now impose fines of several million dollars on media sources (even online) that do

not follow their rules. It can also stop certain things from being published. It seems like a clear step towards state censorship. The new restrictions were criticized and mocked across the world from countries that behold free press, such as the U.S., to authoritative regimes, such as Iran and Ukraine. One must not forget that it was in fact the free press that was able to uncover the scandal in the first place. Thus, as it had already applied a check on itself, extra legislation seemed like nothing other than a post-collateral guilt trip. Nevertheless, although the Royal Charter has the potential to set a scary trend, legislation does nothing more than what is necessary in order to protect the people. The recent scandal would not be able to reoccur. If we did not have laws that do that then what use is any form of effective government?

Freedom of expression is one thing; using and exploiting other innocent people for the purpose of tabloid excitement is another thing altogether. The headline may be startling, but the fine print is somewhat reassuring. The sort of things that would provoke this new supervisory body to instigate such fines would not likely be published anyways. It could have gone even further — Hugh Grant and other members of the powerful new lobby group Hacked Off were pushing for actual legislation, but the prime minister rightly veered away from the idea. But the main wider-ranging issue, has not been addressed.

One cannot forget that one of the main reasons behind what happened was that the press, especially that run by megalomaniacal moguls such as Murdoch, had and still have too much power, and, what's more, they really know it, thus gaining the confidence to pull off stunts such as these. Tougher regulations are required in order to safeguard individuals who, for a long time, have been greatly detached from the workings of the higher realms of British public life. However, these laws alone will not bridge that gap. The lingering suspicion that it was the political elite's fault for allowing characters such as Murdoch to play king-maker has not disappeared. Thus, while the regulations themselves are probably enough to protect private individuals, they do not address the real problem. The press was only guilty when it was allowed to wield too much power, and that power had nothing to do with the detritus it printed. The real culprits are those who are still in charge and still representing once great institutions like the press and a non-corrupt government.

**"Freedom of expression is one thing; using and exploiting other innocent people for the purpose of tabloid excitement is another thing altogether."**

### EYES ON THE OUTSIDE

Jack Apollo George '16 is from London, U.K.



# Apartheid?

Amitai Ben-Abba's op-ed of March 20 "Occupation — the Censored Word" labels Ambassador Dennis Ross's recent lecture on the Middle East and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict "an astonishing feat of deception." Not only did Ross clearly, and fairly, criticize both Israelis and Palestinians while articulating steps that both sides must take in order to achieve peace, but Ben-Abba's response is not without its own deceptive remarks.

Contrary to what Ben-Abba claims, Jews did not simply move into Israel in 1948 and expel its native inhabitants. Over half a century prior, Jews, escaping European anti-Semitism, began purchasing land legally from absentee land owners in what would become Israel, cultivating it and developing cities. At the time of the UN Partition in 1947, Jews had a clear majority of 538,000 to 397,000 Arabs in the land given to them. In a greater context, this partition divided only 20 percent of Mandate Palestine; the other 80 percent was allocated to what would become Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. Since its independence in 1948, Israel has actively pursued peace, but the Palestinians have rejected every offer Israel has ever made. While Israel's gaining independence was certainly complicated, with injustices done to both Israelis and Palestinians alike, the history is far more nuanced than the one-sided story Ben-Abba tells.

Ben-Abba continues by quoting Martin Luther King Jr., attempting unsuccessfully to present the American civil rights hero as anti-Israel and to portray Israel as a racist state. Contrary to Ben-Abba's claim, Dr. King stood with Israel, stating, "Peace for Israel means security, and we must stand with all our might to protect its right to exist, its territorial integrity. I see Israel as one of the great outposts of democracy in the world." To align Dr. King's supportive remarks with Ben-Abba's misconstrued attack on Israel's committing a "systematic ethnic cleansing of Palestine" is inappropriate.

Moreover, Ben-Abba's use of the "apartheid" label on Israel is both offensive and inaccurate. Although Israel

faces racial struggles like any other western democracy, it often surpasses the human rights records of any other first world country. "Apartheid" has no obvious correlation whatsoever to the relationship between Israelis and Palestinians. "Apartheid" refers to a system of extreme racial segregation enforced by legislation in South Africa, in which the country's white minority exercised complete political and social control over the black majority, stripping them of fundamental rights. Palestinian citizens of Israel face none of these injustices. Israeli-Arab men and women have a guaranteed right to vote in regular, stable, democratic elections. In Israel, an Arab man, Salim Joubran, sits on the Supreme Court. In Israel, Arabs sit in the Israeli parliament. In Israel, Arab students, including those from the West Bank, attend prestigious Israeli universities, which also employ many Arab professors. In Israel, Arabs serve as generals in the army. Finally, as Ross pointed out in his speech, Israel regularly treats both citizen and non-citizen Palestinian Arabs in its hospitals — for free.

What part of this resembles anything that comes remotely close to apartheid? Arab citizens of Israel do have to deal with racism and hate, but to call this "apartheid" is utterly inaccurate. The truth is that Arabs in Israel have more rights than Arabs in any Arab country. They can speak critically of Israel without fear of retribution and they enjoy civil liberties far greater than exist anywhere else in the Middle East. Arab women, in particular, are safer and better protected in Israel than anywhere else in the region. The term "apartheid" is merely a provocative buzz word ignoring the complexities of the situation, and is used only to incite unwarranted criticism of Israel.

As for Arab non-citizens of Israel, those living in Gaza or the West Bank, Ben-Abba is correct; these people do face oppression. It's a sad reality, but this oppression, requires context. People living in these areas do not face oppression because of their Arab ethnicity, but rather because some groups of Palestinians represent a security threat to Israel. Since 2005, when Israel unilaterally withdrew from the ter-

ritory, over 8,000 rockets have been fired from Gaza into Israel. Gaza's leadership, Hamas, which the UN considers a terrorist organization, encourages and partakes in these attacks which are nearly always first strikes on Israel. During the Second Intifada, the West Bank leadership, Fatah, sat, watched and applauded as terrorists murdered close to 1,000 Israeli civilians in cold blood. Despite this, Israel regularly brings aid to these communities including more than one million tons of humanitarian supplies in the past 18 months to Gaza. The security barrier running along the West Bank, which was built after the Second Intifada, has put a halt to terrorism arising in the West Bank, while Israel's siege on Gaza lessens the flow of rockets into the strip. Israel has every right to protect the lives of its citizens, and the blame for lost civil liberties for Palestinians must be shared between both Israel and the Palestinian leadership — or lack thereof — which has done too little to stop acts of terror against Israel.

Israel should not be free of criticism; Israel deserves criticism just like every other country in the world. However, Ben-Abba's article criticizes Israel entirely unfairly, and in doing so, ignores many other, far worse, atrocities in the region. Take Syria, for example.

When Ben-Abba calls for Middlebury to divest from Israel, it must be made clear that to divest from Israel is to divest from values like democracy, self determination and liberal progress. The Israeli Defense Force has the lowest civilian-combatant ratio in the history of the world. I question Ben-Abba's motive for selectively calling out Israel, rather than China or Russia — countries with truly atrocious human rights records. As Middlebury students who care deeply about such values, we must critically assess Ben-Abba's proposition and recognize that introducing Israel into the divestment conversation will result in the destruction of our divestment movement as a whole.

## READER OP-ED

**Willie Goodman '16** is from Highland Park, Ill.

## My raw heart

I have a sister. I have a best friend. I have parents.

I also watched a film called *Five Broken Cameras* today. A documentary by Emad Burnat, the movie shows us the scenes of his life. The man happens to be Palestinian, and by that I mean his life sometimes seems inaccessible to me until I think: I have a sister. I have a best friend. I have parents.

## READER OP-ED

**Celeste Allen '16** is from Scottsdale, Ariz.

I have a sister. She's two years older than me. We've shaped each other, grown up together, and she knows more about my life than anyone else alive. In *Five Broken Cameras*, I watched a man see his older brother shot by Israeli soldiers. What was the brother's crime? He was at a protest saying that he didn't want a wall built through his family's land. If my older sister was shot my world would be a little broken inside. I love to smile, but like that younger brother in Palestine, I don't know if my smile could survive losing Hannah. Especially not after seeing her fight to keep our town whole and then seeing that hope lost down the barrel of a gun.

I have a best friend. I've known her since we were both in fourth grade. She's my lovely, my heart, my favorite narcissist and my home. I've been to demonstrations with her before. We've marched together, chanting about how we should let people who love each other get married, even if they happen to be of the same gender. I don't want to even imagine how I would feel to see her ripped away from me by soldiers. To see her lifted bodily and dragged away, fear on her face. I can't imagine not talking to her for a year, let alone spending that whole year wondering if she would be all right in prison. Just thinking about that happening to China terrifies me but I just watched this exact scene play out over and over as Emad saw his brothers taken from him

and arrested.

Finally, I have parents. We have a house, one I've lived in for 18 years. My senior year of high school someone broke into our house and robbed us. I was the first one home, and I still remember the feeling of invasion, like my person had somehow been violated. Imagine if I were Palestinian, living in a place called the West Bank. Instead of being robbed, my family would deal with Israeli soldiers coming in the middle of the night and banging on our door. My parents are quiet people; they're people who like plans and science. Imagining them standing by helplessly while armed men search our house and shake me and Hannah from our beds, pointing their weapons at us as they yell at us to get out of our own home, breaks my heart a little. I think of my quiet, respectable parents walking back into the home that has Hannah's and my childhood artwork on the walls and seeing their faces as they see

**"Imagine if I were Palestinian, living in a place called the West Bank. Instead of being robbed, my family would deal with Israel soldiers coming in the middle of the night and banging on our door."**

teach me hate.

This scene happens. This memory belongs to a professor who teaches here, who is a real person you will have to look in the eyes if you want to deny his experience.

I don't care about your politics. I don't care what your ideology is. I don't even care what you think, because this isn't a matter for your intellect or your mind. I ask instead that as someone's sibling, as someone's friend or as someone's child you let your heart get rubbed a little raw by hearing these stories. Because then I know that you are at least as human as a Palestinian.

I can't know where your raw heart will lead you; that's for you to decide. Mine has led me to a club that meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. called "Justice for Palestine."

## LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX

Sexual assault: sketchy guy at a party starts grinding on a random drunk girl, brings her more drinks and leads her back to his dorm. This is the picture we use to protect ourselves when we go out on Friday nights. But it is a false image. Sexual predators don't grow out of the heavy beats of Madonna or the spilled beer on the floor of KDR, only to dissolve again in the morning. Approximately 78 percent of rapes nationally are committed by a person the victim knows, and this percentage is even higher at small schools like ours. "The sketchy guys" are us. We coerce, we manipulate and we take advantage of each other's drunkenness or uncertainty, because we've never learned how to choose not to. Sexual assault is never as black and white as we want it to be, and frequently the difference between harassment and an awkward encounter is communication and understanding. Between two acquaintances there is space to exchange narrative — space that must be used to learn about one another and understand each other's stories. From this understanding we can perceive how our actions will affect our peers and partners, negatively or positively.

These are difficult conversations to have, and we need the support of the administration to create the space. Middlebury's current policy operates based on the image of the sketchy guy at a party and the drunk girl, and therefore it deals with sexual assault and harassment the same way one deals with the flu: get the shot, wash your hands and hope you don't get sick. Have a buddy system, don't drink too much and hope you don't get sexually assaulted. This message tells the victims of sexual assault how to act, making it their responsibility to protect themselves instead of making it the predator's responsibility to not assault his or her peers. When we make it the victim's responsibility to protect him or herself from sexual assault, we also make it the victim's fault if he or she is assaulted. We've all heard of this before — it's called blaming the victim, and it is one of the most damaging and least effective ways to tackle issues of rape and harassment. It suggests that sexual predators cannot prevent themselves from raping. This is simply not true. The flu virus doesn't get to choose whether or not it will spread from person to person, but we as Middlebury students can, if given the tools, choose not to assault and harass our classmates. We can do this by looking at sexual predators and asking the question, "why?" Through the answers to this question we can learn how not to be "that sketchy guy."

We need the administration's aid to answer these questions. The current "sexual assault and harassment training" should be

replaced with an in-depth training that incorporates seminars and panels led by students, professors and outsiders who understand the complexities of college life and can help us have open conversations throughout our college career. The training must focus on ending the oversimplification of consent. Consent is not simple: students have to learn how to give and understand it. They have to learn how to make it work for their relationships. If we can illuminate what consent means, we will hopefully lessen the frequency of these stories: "She didn't say no. They were both really drunk. They didn't even have sex. And now he's been suspended for two weeks. Isn't that kind of extreme?" Everyone takes a different side to this, and open discussions about different interpretations of consent and the histories behind this single story will prevent us from naming the victim manipulative, flaky or mean-spirited, or from naming the perpetrator horny, sexist or simply evil.

The training can provide the space to talk about social pressures that cause us to hurt ourselves and others. We need to reconcile the mixed messages from the media, our parents, religion and peers that have led us to a very complicated, contradictory and problematic relationship with sex by naming these messages and recognizing where they have influenced our behaviors. We need to talk about the pressure to "score." We need to resolve the tension between practicing sexual freedom and objectifying our own bodies. We need to come to terms with the contradictory stigmas of being a virgin or a slut/player. These conversations can help us understand what our sexuality means to us and what others' sexuality means to them, and thereby help us illuminate our and our partner's sexual desires and needs. This communication will lessen the frequency of misunderstandings that lead to sexual assault or harassment.

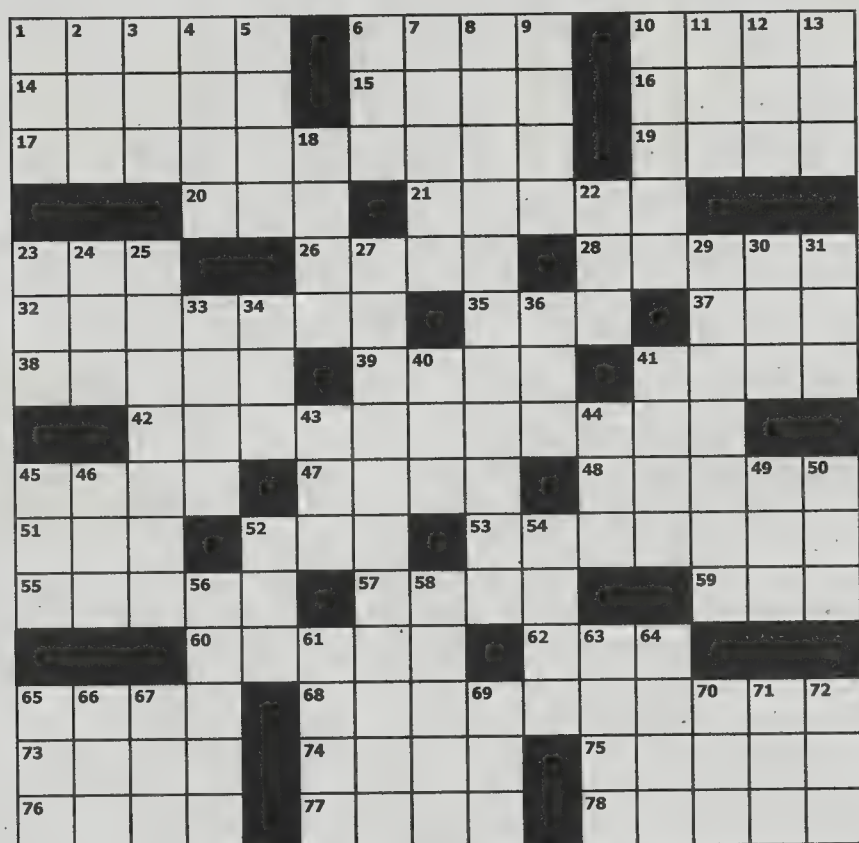
I've been a Midd Kid for six weeks, and already I've heard stories about Delta, the Bunker, Battell; about terrible nights and awkward days; and I've heard guys and girls chatting freely about whether or not they think that kid is a virgin or how they "got lucky" the night before. This doesn't have to be just the way things are. Let's be honest to each other and to ourselves about what we really want. Let's question the social norms and pressures that cause our destructive behaviors to recur. Let's find a place and a time and together, let's really talk about sex.

## READER OP-ED

**Rebecca Coates-Finke '16.5** is from Northampton, Mass.



**Campus Crossword**  
by Luke Schanz-Garbassi '15



**Across**

1. Entourages
6. Johnny of "Edward Scissorhands"
10. Grape growth site
14. Source of fear for Allied ships
15. "Cop Killer" rapper turned TV cop
16. Furry Endor inhabitant
17. Infamous union-busting agents

19. Was in the saddle
20. "\_\_\_\_\_ dreaming?"
21. Grinding sessions, abbr.
23. Anger
26. Super Bowl in 2073
28. Famous fabler
32. With 53-Across, overstay one's welcome at Middlebury
35. Super Bowl org.
37. It may be found at 21-across

38. Photographer's command
39. Pulled (up), as a recording
41. Word sung twice after "que"
42. Underground shopping center, so to speak
45. Hearty partner
47. Yahweh alternative
48. Ancient quinoa eaters
51. One is to a nightingale
52. Zone for Vt. clocks
53. Word that can follow the starts of 17-across, 42-across, and 68-across
55. Pretender
57. Part of an accusatory break-up text message, say
59. Century cents (abbr.)
60. Set up
62. Badmouth
65. Intense enthusiasm
68. Headliner for The Clash's live debut
73. "\_\_\_\_\_ Karenina"
74. Ruler in the setting of 73-Across
75. Pyramidal Vegas hotel
76. Billy or kid
77. Hamlet: "But thinking makes \_\_\_\_\_"
78. Organ-liquefying disease

11. \_\_\_\_\_ Jima
12. Assent
13. \_\_\_\_\_ out a living
18. Rolling in it
22. Bud
23. April 15 org.
24. The hoop in hoops
25. Pot brownies, e.g.
27. Grizzly Bear album named for an island
29. Shady
30. "\_\_\_\_\_ the land of the free..."
31. Tiger Woods org.
33. "Vogue" alternative
34. World's second most popular drink
36. Fireside chatter, in brief
40. Thurman of "Kill Bill"
41. Dispatched
43. Its logo is an eye
44. Family
45. Bunny maneuver
46. Hullabaloo
49. Prefix with ation or ial
50. Soon-to-be grads
52. Goof up
54. Car that sounds like a belly button type
56. D-sharp
58. Home of the Johnsons and Bushes
61. Prosecco's sweet cousin
63. Robinson Crusoe setting
64. Concert memento, maybe
65. Zig partner
66. Rock producer Brian
67. Prefix with baptist or chronism
69. 35-Across player, e.g.
70. Non-winning tic-tac-toe row
71. hahaha
72. Mrs., in Madrid

**Down**

1. 1/16 gallon
2. Slugger's stat
3. Long time
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Flocka Flame
5. Arise (from)
6. "\_\_\_\_\_"
7. Bacteria often linked to food poisoning
8. Swiss-Italian mountain range
9. Affliction for some vets
10. Bible chapter unit



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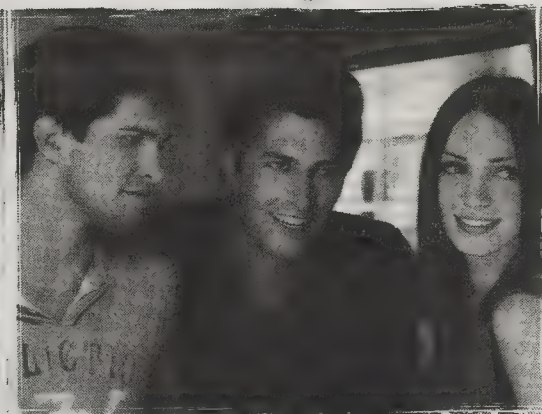


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# Middlebury Club Sports

## RECRUITMENT

Women's rugby faces a few challenges in attempting to recruit new members to the team. While the sport requires 15 players on the field, often the team struggles to fill the roster for a variety of reasons. This year, however, recruitment is high, as the team has 22 women on the official roster.

One of the biggest challenges that Marea Columbo '13 cites for the team is that rugby does not cross over from any other sports for women. Columbo is the only member of the team who had played before the transition to college athletics.

Another club on campus is the Sailing Team. Although they accept anyone who wants to learn how to sail, part of their recruitment difficulties are that not very many people on campus may realize that Middlebury does, in fact, have a sailing team, said Nick Dragone '14, vice commodore. They do, however, recruit a decent number of students each year and currently have 30 members on their roster this year.

"The majority of our members became interested in sailing at the activities fair at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters," said Dragone. "We have sailors from all experience levels, from walk-ons who have never sailed before to those who have competed on a national and international level before [coming to] Middlebury."

As for the Equestrian Team, most of their riders come to them. "We get a lot of emails from students who are already at Middlebury and are interested in taking riding lessons or seeing what we do as a show team," said team captain Oonagh Ziegler '13. "And then we get a lot of emails from high school kids, who are looking at NESCAC schools or schools on the east coast, who competed at the high school level."

Like the sailing team, the equestrians attribute the small size of their team to the little visibility they receive on campus. But excitement tends to be high when students do find out that the college has horses near campus.

## FINANCE

"Club sports are fairly popular on campus, considering the volume of the names on the rosters versus the fairly small amount of students we have on campus," said Office and Budget Manager Jessie Jerry.

The dean of students department has noticed a slight upsurge in student participation in club sports over the past few years. As student involvement grows, questions have been raised about the process of funding these organizations, the most prominently surrounding regulations on coaching.

"For club sports, you're required to have a coach, and the club sports then have to fundraise to fund the coach," said Jerry.

The SGA and the Dean of the College recently proposed a reorganization of club sport finances. The new model will involve ensuring that all the coaches are paid – in the past, some have volunteered their time.

"They want to make it a little bit more fair for the smaller club sports that haven't had as much success with the fundraising," said Jerry. "Hopefully it will be a more sustainable model, and hopefully the students won't have to worry so much about how to pay their coaches." Like other student organizations, club sports submit a budget proposal in the spring for the following year. The funding varies "wildly" between clubs, according to Jerry. Rugby and crew have consistently remained the biggest spenders, with sailing and Quidditch near the top of the heap as well.

The equestrian team has struggled with finances in recent years. Though team members continue to pay for their lessons out of pocket (\$35 each week), the College has recently agreed to fund the team's show fees and team practices.

"We made the argument that we're competing on behalf of the school, we're just like any other sports team," said Ziegler. "So why are we having to pay for that when you pay for all the other competition fees for all the other teams."

## COMPETITION

Women's rugby recently transitioned from a Division II club sport. Determined by geographic division is mostly comprised of other teams.

The sailing team has a fleet of 42 minutes south of campus on Lake Champlain where they practice. Although the commitment isn't necessarily that vigorous – they are suggested to practice twice a week – they send teams of four sailors to compete in regattas from September to November and February.

"At these regattas we compete against teams with sailing teams from across New England," said Dragone. "Each season we attend competitions towards all skill levels, from beginner to advanced."

The majority of the equestrian team's season takes place in the fall. Like a typical show, the show hosts teams from several other colleges. Minutes before you get on, and then you ride," said Ziegler.

This adds an extra layer of competition. "We do not have the luxury of showing to people whom they are familiar. It's fun and challenging, but it levels the playing field a bit."

For its small size, the equestrian team has had some success in competition in recent years.

"We have a number of riders who have competed every year, which, considering the fact that we only practice once a week, unlike other teams who practice multiple times a day, and have other external commitments, that's pretty good," said Ziegler. "And we've done pretty well at shows as well."

MIDDLEBURY OFFERS THE CHANCE TO PLAY THE FOLLOWING NINE CLUB SPORTS ...



CYCLING



FENCING



EQUESTRIAN



RUGBY



SAILING



# Sports: GAME ON

by Lauren Davidson, Molly Talbert and Isabelle Stillman

design by Marea Hatheway and Olivia Allen

## COMPETITION

Recently transitioned to a Division I school by geographical location, the campus is comprised of other NESCAC club

s a fleet of 420 and FJ boats 15 up on Lake Dunmore, where the commitment level for sailing is vigorous — team members are twice a week — the sailing team competes to competitions every week — September and February to May.

“We compete against other schools from across New England,” said Ziegler. “We attend competitions geared from beginners to advanced rac-

ing the equestrian team’s competition in the fall. Like a track meet, a horse show or sevens maybe five to 10 minutes and then you get on and you go

layer of competition, because riding is a luxury of showing on a horse with a lot of money. “It’s fun and it’s always a challenging field a lot,” said Ziegler. The equestrian team has seen much success in recent years.

“We have a lot of riders who go to Regionals considering the fact that we practice every day. We have teams who practice every single day. External commitments, I think it’s a challenge,” said Ziegler. “And we tend to place well.”



SAILING

## PERCEPTION

“I think that we’re in a unique position because we are a women’s team playing a full contact sport, so you can imagine the stereotypes that come with that,” said Columbo. She says that often people understand women’s rugby to be a “butch” sport. “The fact that someone would stigmatize it as a very butch and large girl sport is humorous to me,” Columbo added.

“I think people respect us as a real sport because they’re purely intimidated by what it is that we do,” said Columbo. “They obviously know it’s a club sport and people don’t pay a lot of attention to it. I think we are respected because we are playing a full contact sport with no padding whatsoever.”

Although the sailing team may not have a very high profile on campus, they do try to make it an accessible sport for the whole campus.

“Along with our racing team, we offer a PE class, a free weekly recreational sailing day for the wider campus community,” said Dragone.

The Equestrian Team is made up of only 15 students, so recognition on campus is small. “A lot of people don’t even know we exist,” said Ziegler. Furthermore, the organization is not officially recognized as a club sport, but rather a student organization. “I would love to reopen that conversation and see if there’s something we can do about that,” said Ziegler.



QUIDDITCH



FIGURE SKATING

## INJURY

While injury may seem impossible to avoid when playing rugby, Columbo said that when played correctly, the game is actually quite safe. She added that many understand rugby injuries in a different light than non-contact sports because of the nature of the sport.

“The reason [perception of injury is high] is because a lot of people think we bring it upon ourselves,” said Columbo. “If a soccer player gets injured, people would say that’s really bad luck, [but not with rugby]. It’s really hard to be treated that way because if you’re playing rugby safely it should be injury free.”

Despite the perception of injury being skewed, any contact sport comes with its risks. Concussions tend to be the biggest issue because of the length of time it takes to recover. The women’s rugby team does have access to the training facilities and is taken seriously by the staff.

“Only recently have we been viewed as contributing athletes in that facility,” said Columbo. “I’m really close with a lot of the trainers there and really like them, but my freshman year I was petrified.”

## COMMITMENT

Rugby practices are similar to that of a varsity team. Practices are held three to four times a week for two hours a day. While the team has the potential to reach varsity level, Columbo said that the varying levels of commitment on an individual level pose a challenge to the organization of the team.

“I think some of us could, if rugby became varsity, fulfill all of the requirements that would make a varsity team,” said Columbo. “But a lot of people know they’re a club sport and they know that things are not mandatory like they are on varsity, so there’s more resistance individually.”

The equestrian team has two levels of commitment. The show team, which is competition-based, participates in six to eight shows in the fall. “We ask that you commit to lessons for an entire semester, and that’s once a week for an hour,” said Ziegler. “But it’s about two and a half hours total, when you factor in getting to the barn, getting ready, etc.” If riders are not interested in competing, they can take lessons without participating in shows.



CHESS



BADMINTON



# MIDDLEBURY CELEBRATES GAYPRIL WITH A MONTH OF EVENTS

By Charlotte Boghossian and Katie Schott

This week marked the kickoff of Gaypril, a month hosted by Middlebury Open Queer Alliance (MOQA) that is dedicated to raising LGBTQ awareness and celebrating "queer" life at Middlebury.

The inaugural event was a joint Atwater dinner co-hosted by Women of Color (WOC), Feminist Action at Middlebury (FAM) and MOQA with the theme of "Good Food and Talking." It was a big success, according to MOQA co-chair Petre Knor '15, who said, "we had to turn 50 people away at the door."

This year, Gaypril has a packed calendar, with some stand-out events including a panel on international queer-ness, an awareness workshop on HIV/AIDS by Vermont CARES and a talk by Lesléa Newman, author of the first children's book featuring a non-traditional family, *Heather Has Two Mommies*.

MOQA co-chair Emma Ashby '13 is particularly excited about Lesléa Newman's visit.

"I'm really interested in her," said Ashby. "I think it's cool that [her book] overlaps with the political world and the literary community."

Newman's book was published in 1989 and was widely banned upon release and remains so in several places.

The panel on international queer-ness will, said Knor, "focus on masculinity abroad and how it is different from the U.S. ... like how, in Europe, it's not 'gay' to wear tight, colored pants and in India men can hold hands."

"It's basically how do you know a hip-

ster from someone international, from a gay man. It's a very discussed topic in the queer community when guys are scouting for other guys," Ashby added.

Some of the more social events include a Fri-Gay party at Munford on Friday, April 12, and a "Barbe-queer" behind Chellis House that Ashby hopes "everyone will come to."

She added, "As you can see, we had a lot of fun naming the events!"

Gaypril this year is emphasizing collaboration with multiple co-hosted events — for example, a recent pride Shabbat service and dinner at Hillel House.

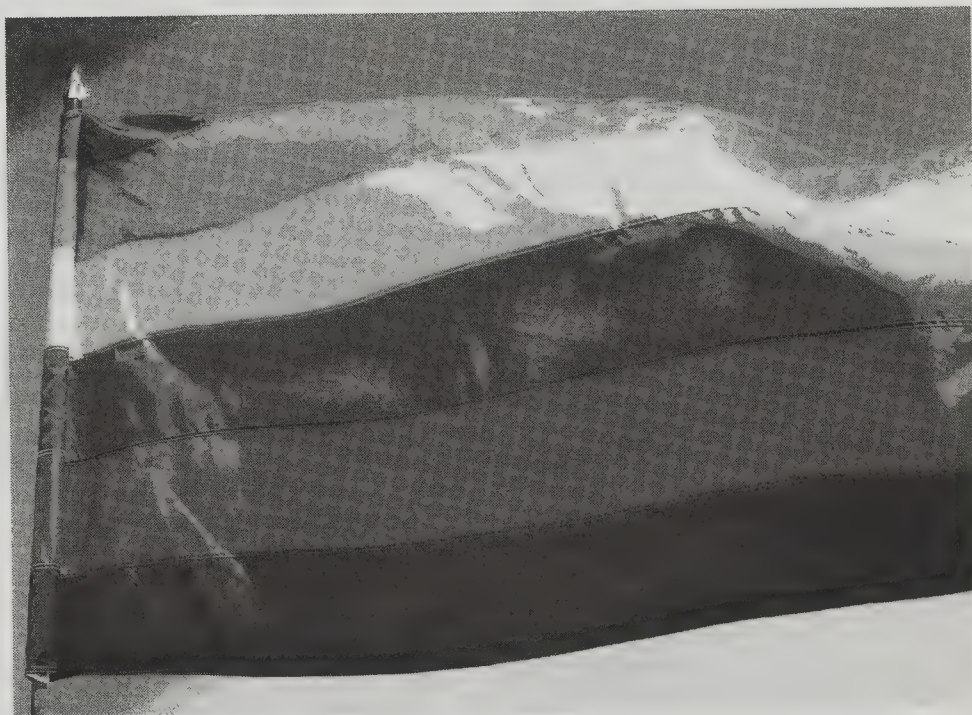
Hillel President and MOQA member Dave Yedid explained that after the Shabbat dinner there was a discussion of sexuality and faith, and how Jewish values fit in with LGBTQ issues.

"I think that a lot of people see faith and homosexuality as exclusive," said Yedid. "LGBT communities tend to be secular or even denigrate religion. So my favorite part about Judaism is its diversity and inclusion."

April is the perfect time for LGBTQ awareness month for reasons apart from the pun — Gaypril happens when many prospective students come to visit campus.

"You gravitate to places that are more accepting," said Ashby. "I've heard from many students that when they visited they saw the gay flags flying everywhere and the huge Gaypril posters, and it really affected their decision to come here."

"One of the reasons I chose to come



CAMPUS ARCHIVES

Gaypril works to maintain a welcoming and supportive environment for LGBTQ issues.

to Middlebury was I saw the Gaypril calendar and I was like yes, there is gay activism here!" added Yedid.

Despite the bright energy that Gaypril exudes, MOQA does face some obstacles on campus. Knor points out that Middlebury lacks a college employee dedicated to LGBTQ issues that many other colleges provide.

"It's hard because then the responsibility to organize everything falls on MOQA," said Knor.

But this year MOQA has pulled together a full schedule of events, and each

individual involved has their own hopes and goals for Gaypril's effect on campus life.

Yedid sees Gaypril as an avenue for "welcoming allies and uniting the gay community."

"I'd love to draw in someone who has never thought about queer-ness in their life, maybe the male lacrosse player who comes by himself to a screening just because it's something he's never been involved in before," said Ashby on her goals for the month.

## Princeton professor addresses reading for friendship

By Adam Kelley

On April 4, aspiring classics majors and other reading aficionados gathered in Axinn Center at Starr to hear from Princeton University's Andrew Flemming West Professor of Classics, Emeritus, W. Robert Connor. The hour-long lecture and subsequent discussion session surveyed the practice of reading from the perspective of the ancient world. Connor's lecture, entitled "Reading: Then and Now," sought for the audience to "rethink our own notions and practices relative to this art of reading."

According to Pavlos Sfyroeras, associate professor of classics who introduced the speaker, Connor is well known for his "field-changing" work in classical scholarship, which has "altered the way we imagine" antiquity, as well as the liberal arts in general. But as Connor took the floor, his friendly, informal demeanor ruled out any notions of academic dryness or pedantry. The lecture was as engaging as it was informative. Connor began by describing the tap code system invented by American prisoners-of-war in Vietnam, and how soldiers such as John Borling, who served in Vietnam, wrote poetry to keep themselves sane in the depths of terrible suffering. As an example of an unconventional system of non-verbal discourse, this story showed the fundamental importance of reading

in human life, the thread that tied the rest of the lecture together.

Connor also described the ancient equivalents of modern "books" — papyrus scrolls with narrow text columns, all in capital letters, with no punctuation, spaces or paragraphs. In addition to the inherent inefficiencies of the text itself, these volumes were incredibly time-consuming to produce and expensive to purchase, all conditions that are anathema to our modern conception of reading.

To further illustrate the obstacles that stood in the way of what we might think of as "reading comprehension," Connor called up a student who presented the results of an experiment undertaken by students in three classes that were taught in the classics department. Specifically in preparation for this lecture, students had each taken a text or passage in English, Latin or ancient Greek and transcribed it by hand in the papyrus style. With only 15 to 25 characters allowed per line, the process was laborious. Students' average numbers of lines per hour generally fell

between 60 and 120, with one transcriber clocking it at a mere 34. The effect on the reader was equally profound. As Michael Russo '16 wrote in an email, "Even in English, the language of the work I transcribed, I had trouble differentiating one word from another."

However, Connor pointed out that since the Greeks were an incredibly innovative people, this outwardly obtuse system of communication was not for nothing: "they must have liked it!"

In fact, the benefits were numerous. As a result of the built-in difficulty, reading progressed in stages. First, the reader would read to figure out word divisions. Then, he or she would have to reread for comprehension, probably multiple times. Connor described this method, attributed to the Greeks, as "go-and-stop reading." By forcing the reader to pause to decipher the text itself, reading was made slower and more contemplative, in contrast to the "skim, scan and search" style we tend to use today. The more time we spend reading, the more we truly come to understand a given text.

Furthermore, the sheer unavail-

ability of books perhaps contributed to a more vibrant social context for reading. Instead of circulating among friends or from libraries, people actually had to meet in person and read in groups if they wanted to hear what the latest literary figure had to say. Reading from historical accounts of group reading, Connor illustrated how "the social act of reading" could constitute its own type of communicative process, which he termed "friendship reading." In addition, since books were so difficult to obtain, reading for memorization and performance became common.

By the end of the lecture, Connor had identified six types of reading: go-and-stop, staged rereading, friendship reading, performance reading, "extractive reading" and memorization. He encouraged the audience to apply these neglected methods to their own lives, to see if they could lead to a richer understanding of written material.

"Sometimes things that are so old-fashioned come back ... and are revolutionary," he said.

For his part, Russo stated, "I do plan on trying out ... reading with friends and memorization. These two spoke to me the most because the former allows friendships to grow and the latter allows you to keep some of the most beautiful texts in your heart no matter what happens."

**"Sometimes things that are so old-fashioned come back ... and are revolutionary."**

W. ROBERT CONNOR  
ANDREW FLEMMING WEST PROFESSOR OF CLASSICS, EMERITUS  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

WINNERS  
&  
LOSERS

**SPRING WEATHER**  
So many people showing off  
spring break tans.

**SEPOMANA**  
Finally a use for  
McCullough!

**ROOM DRAW**  
What's your number ;)

**BREAKFAST FOR DINNER**  
Ross at its finest. The pan-  
cakes are worth the wait.

**MUD SEASON**  
It's like the Hunger Games  
on the T.A.M.

**HOMEWORK**  
Just because we haven't  
made it a loser in awhile.

**ROOM DRAW**  
Let's be real ... most of us are  
losers.

**CLASS REGISTRATION**  
The highs! The lows! The  
emotion! The server crashes!



# Biology professor accepts Perkins Award

By Emilie Munson

On April 4, 2013, the Perkins Award for Excellence in Teaching was presented to Assistant Professor of Biology Catherine Combelles in recognition of her exemplary teaching in the classroom and her pioneering work in oocyte development. On a sunny afternoon, students and faculty gathered in a sunlit lecture room of McCardell Bicentennial Hall to celebrate this recognition, which Dean of Faculty Andrea Lloyd described as the "synergy (...) between teaching and scholarship."

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the Perkins Award, one of the College's most prestigious faculty honors. It is presented to mathematics and computer science professors in odd-numbered years and natural science professors in even-numbered years. Recipients are nominated by their department for their outstanding teaching and personal scholarship. The award includes a grant for scholarship, a citation and recognition on two plaques.

The Perkins Award is provided by founder of the mathematics department, Professor Eminentus Llewellyn R. Perkins and his wife, Middlebury College alumna, Ruth M.H. Perkins '32.

With the assistance of several stu-

dents, Combelles is currently studying the effect of antioxidants on oocyte development with the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In the past, alongside several students, she has frozen oocyte cells to preserve cancer victims' fertility. Later this year Combelles will submit a proposal to the National Institutes of Health to study the effect of obesity on fertilized oocytes.

Before arriving at Middlebury in 2004, Combelles received her B.S. in biology from the College of Charleston, her M.S. in zoology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and her Ph.D. in cell, molecular and developmental biology from Tufts University. Combelles, a Toulouse, France native, was also a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Brigham and William's Hospital in Boston, Mass. She has been published extensively, including many articles co-authored by Middlebury students. Recently, Combelles was promoted to associate professor of biology effective as of July 1, 2013.

In the biology department, Combelles teaches courses such as "Organelles and Cells, Developmental Biology" and the first year seminar "Making Babies in a Brave New World."

At the ceremony, Combelles's student research assistants raved about her care for her students and passion for her sub-

**"I was a professional student for so long and I feel now that I am still a student because in teaching, I am constantly learning."**

CATHERINE COMBELLES  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY



COURTESY OF MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Assistant Professor of Biology Catherine Combelles received the 2013 Perkins Award for Excellence in Teaching.

ject.

"She has an amazing infectious enthusiasm for everything she does," said Ryan Brewster '14. "For me, to observe a professional in her niche doing what she loves has been truly inspiring."

In her acceptance speech, Combelles said that exciting and inspiring others is the most rewarding part of teaching.

"This will never be a boring profession," said Combelles, who compared teaching to "an exercise in frustration." She elaborated, likening teaching to research because of its experimental nature. "I was a professional student for so long and I feel now that I am still a student because in teaching, I am constantly learning."

Combelles hopes that by teaching she can cast a broader net of influence by helping students and the future generation achieve great things.

## TASTE CHEESE CHOPSTICKS



BY JIAYI ZHU

My first two-year contract with AT&T expired last summer and I just got a new number two weeks ago. In between, I had depended on wifi around campus to communicate with people through apps. The main reason that stops me from applying for a new wireless plan is that mobile plans here are too complex for me to figure out.

I never had a family plan with my family. Actually, the first wireless family plan I joined was with other international students in the first month I came to Middlebury.

I was surprised to know that there are free cellphones that come with some contracts. It is interesting to compare that to the situation in China. Unlike a free phone that comes with a wireless contract, it is more likely for people to spend money buying a new phone and get a cheap SIM card.

A SIM card is a portable, exchangeable memory chip used in most cellphones. A lot of my classmates in high school change their cellphone all the time with the same SIM card. A new SIM card usually came with a certain amount of money on it; after using the money up, you can refill your account. Generally speaking, there is no activation fee when you insert a new SIM card to a cellphone.

I got my first cellphone in middle school and the SIM card itself did not cost anything. When there was only 10 yuan (1.6 USD) left, a reminder message would be sent to my cellphone. My number would become unsearchable if no money was left in my account but, once I refilled my SIM card, my number would be reactivated.

Everything is handy and convenient, except that people do not need any forms of ID to buy either a new cell phone or a new SIM card, which make some avoidable fraud schemes through cellphones possible in China.

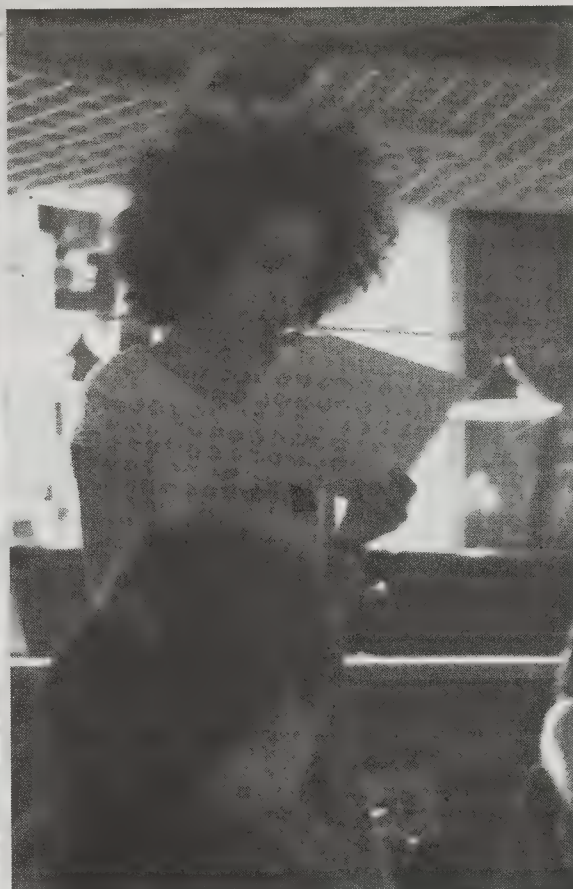
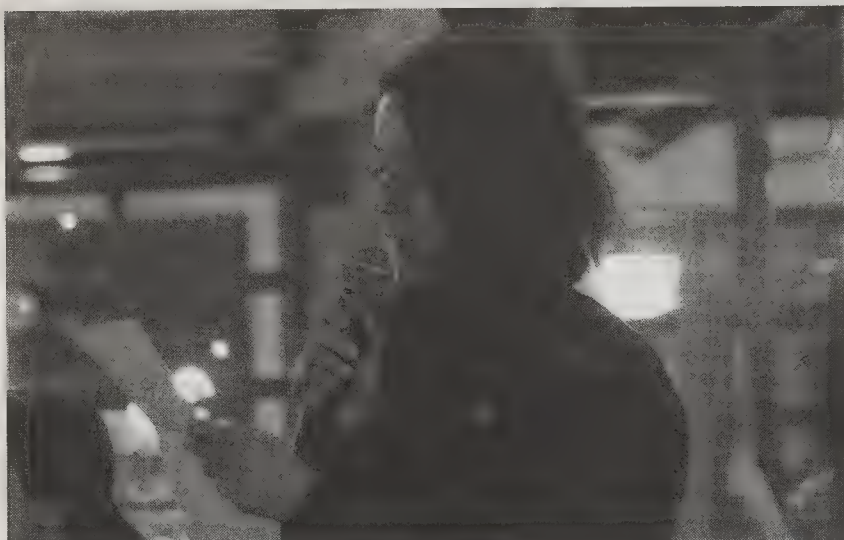
I thought the prepaid plans here would be similar to the ones I got in China, but I was wrong. I was overwhelmed again by the choices two weeks ago at the AT&T store near Hannafords. There are three kinds of monthly plans and two kinds of daily plans. Besides that, I paid a fair amount of money just to activate my new number.

It is more flexible than yearly contract, but it is still a confusing process.

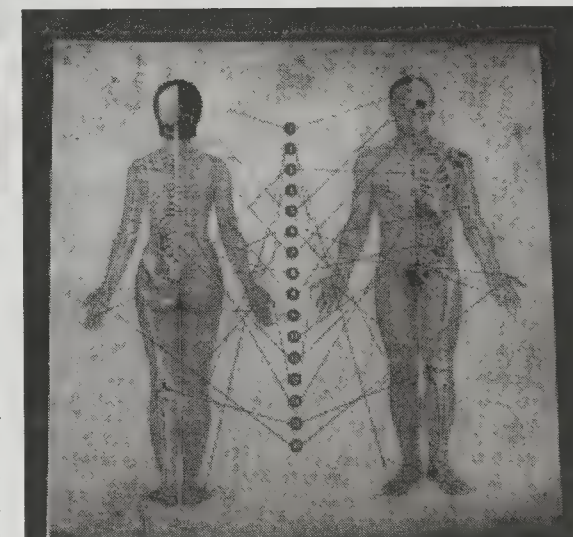
Imagine being a tourist visiting the U.S. You are hoping to get a temporary number to get in touch with your friends, but the staff at the stores starts comparing different kinds of wireless contracts for you. There are numerous combinations of different plans for calls, messages and data, but you cannot find any straightforward plan that allows you to fill money on a SIM card on a usage base. Finally you find something called prepaid monthly plans from a tiny corner, but realize that it is impractical since you are only going to stay here for a week.

I appreciate all the options these wireless companies provide to customers, but I'd rather grab a SIM card at a store and be able to call someone instantly rather than spending time figuring out the cost and benefits of each of the plans.

## LIPS AND HIPS: STUDENT-LED CONVERSATION DISCUSSES BODIES AND IMAGE



PHOTOS BY JESSICA MUNYON



COURTESY OF GO/BODYPARTS

Last Monday night students gathered at Crossroads Cafe in McCullough parative Theology Assits a Feminist Social Space to discuss perceptions View of the Human Being," at the Robert A. Jones House at 4:30 p.m. today, cultural associations with certain body parts.

This is part of a week-long symposium, titled "Body Parts," organized by House, various professors from New York University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Michigan, University of Massachusetts-Amherst and Middlebury College will offer lectures and discussions. Lunch and light refreshments will be served.



# ARTS & SCIENCES

The Middlebury Campus

Middlebury's Solar  
D Team kicks off  
construction!  
Page 19



## SEPOMANA ROCKS MCCULLOUGH



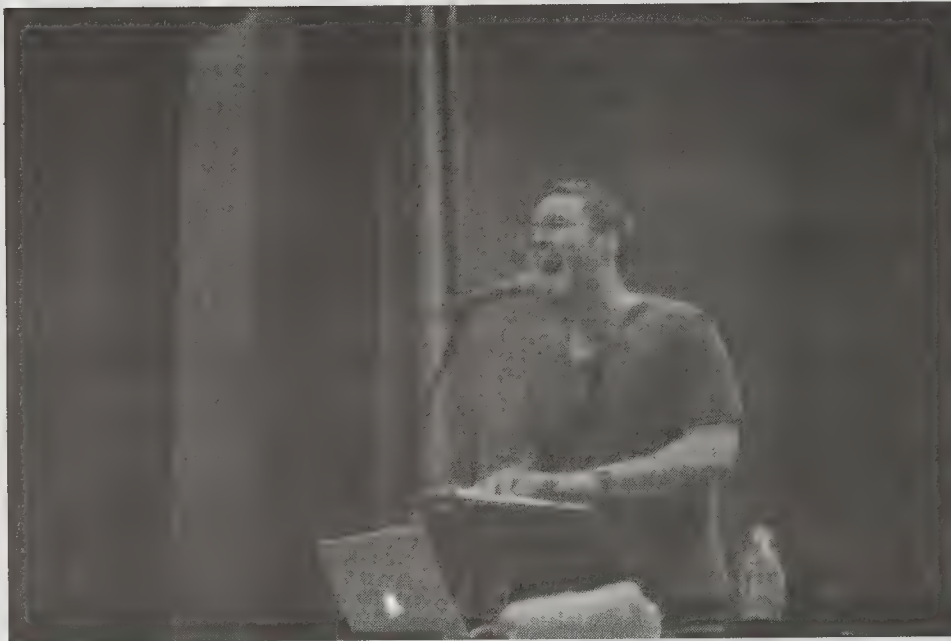
*"Delicate Steve is one of the most exciting emerging bands at the moment. Every member is so talented and the way Steve plays guitar is both powerful and lyrical. There's no need for lyrics."*

ALAN SANDERS '13.5  
WRMC PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR



*"We've never seen McCullough as full as it was on Friday night and it was incredible to see how excited everyone was about each act."*

DIANE MARTIN '13  
WRMC CONCERTS COMMITTEE



**On Friday, April 5, the WRMC Concerts Committee hosted the station's annual Sepomana concert. This year's lineup included Delicate Steve [pictured at top and bottom right], Baths [bottom left] and Rubblebucket [center]. The event drew more attendees than any previous WRMC event.**

**DON'T  
MISS  
THIS**

### Music Lecture

Turkish educator and composer of contemporary music Füsün Köksal comes to campus to give a public talk. Köksal's music has been performed in numerous festivals throughout Europe and the United States.

4/12, 4:30 P.M., MAHANEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

### Undressing Cinderella

*Undressing Cinderella* is a festival of plays all written for the New Play Festival. The goal is to write a play using any character other than Cinderella. Program A runs Wednesday and Friday. Program B will run on Thursday and Saturday.

4/10-13, 8 P.M., WRIGHT MEMORIAL THEATER

### Senior Kaveh Waddell on Piano

Kaveh Waddell '13 shares his love for classical music in a piano concert performing pieces by Haydn, Schubert, Chopin and Debussy. Waddell is an international politics and economics major and a student of affiliate artist Diana Fanning. Come support a fellow Midd kid!

4/12, 8 P.M., MAHANEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS



# Middlebrow brings new sounds, Skidmore's Pulse visits

By Olivia French

Last Saturday, Skidmore College's famous object percussion group, Pulse, performed in the Hepburn Zoo for a roaring crowd of Middlebury students.

Pulse's 15 members created music together using only every day materials — from paint buckets to trashcan lids to helium tanks. What makes their sound so impressive is not just their perfectly synchronized beats and creative harmonies, but their contagious energy. Whether dancing, calling out to the audience or passing inside jokes while they performed, every member of the group was having just as much fun as the crowd.

"The energy we see, we put out," Pulse member Jen Evans. "What was really exciting about tonight was that everyone got to come right up to the front and dance and it was really fun to be part of that energy."

Middlebury's own improv group, Middlebrow, brought Pulse to campus after watching the group perform during a visit to Skidmore earlier this year.

Like Middlebrow, Pulse picks students not based on their experience level, but their personality, spirit and willingness to collaborate. "Pulse is not about being the best drummer in the room but being able to follow and listen and be creative," Evans explained. "What we look for is people who have a lot of energy, enthusiasm, who can blend into a group, and really get into it."

"Each year, depending on the people who are accepted into the group, our sound is going to change," Pulse President Dan Fisher added. "Each person brings their own independent influence to the group and plays their own jam-diggity."

Although Pulse is popular at Skid-

more, members were worried about how Middlebury students would respond to their unique performance style. "Because this isn't Skidmore, we were a little worried there wouldn't be a great turnout," Pulse member Chris Beckett admitted. "But this was way better than I could have ever expected."

Middlebrow member Luke Smith-Stevens '14 shared similar sentiments about improv.

"It is a lot different performing in front of people you don't know, because they don't know at all what to expect. You've really gotta blow them out of the water, and that is what Pulse did." Indeed, students who attended the show gave glowing reviews.

"I have a friend in Pulse and I've heard a lot about them, but I didn't realize just how incredible they would be. I felt tingles through my whole body just

watching them," Emily Bensen '14 said.

"Pulse's creativity, precision, and overall funky-fun tone was amazing and infectious," Andrew Ackerman '13 said. "The crowd loved it."

Pulse has performed in New York City and even auditioned for America's Got Talent, but this performance was their first at a college outside of Skidmore. The group hopes to travel to more schools in the future and, after such a warm welcome, make their way back to Middlebury soon.

"We'd love to collaborate with Pulse again in the future," Middlebrow improver Cailey Cron '13.5 said. "It's something Middlebury's never seen before and if we're able to bring new things to campus — improv or not — we'd love to."

Until then, Middlebrow's next performance is scheduled for April 23 at 10 p.m. in the Pearsons Hall Lounge.

## SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT: IMPORTANCE OF THE WILD

By Will Henriques

The pressure release was tangible. As we drove south out of Vegas, away from the flashing lights, casinos, and strip clubs, south towards the Mojave Desert, south to the emptiness, the deep desert basins and folded ranges, the tension in my chest and shoulders relaxed. The incessant buzz — a conglomeration of assignments to finish, emails to send, meetings to attend — melted from my mind. Climbing the winding road up into Joshua Tree National Park, my entire being breathed a sigh of relief. Six days with no phone, computer, or Internet. Six days of nothing but physical abuse in the form of rock climbing and five nights sleeping in a tent on the gravel ground of Jumbo Rocks campground.

The trip was certainly rejuvenating, but more than that, it was thought provoking. It got me thinking about the place of wilderness in society and the ethics surrounding its use.

Even in the park, the signs of civilization were ubiquitous. Roads were paved throughout, and several extensive campsites were open to the public. Innumerable campers and cars passed through the park on a daily basis. Sunscreen-smeared tourists in sunhats and trainers stepped out of their tour busses to make the half-mile loop trek through the Real Hidden Valley. They snapped pictures, swigged their plastic water bottles, ogled the climbers and then stepped back into their cars and drove on to the Hall of Horrors to repeat the whole ordeal. At night in the campground, the touring public dragged plastic tubs filled with food out of car trunks. They erected tents the size of small cabins. I could even see the pale flicker of satellite television

through the half-closed blinds of camper vans. They removed themselves, as far as possible, from the vast desert silence.

It was a scene evocative of Edward's Abbey's essay, "Polemic: Industrial Tourism and the National Parks," from his 1968 book *Desert Solitaire*. In it, Abbey bemoans the arrival of the hordes of camper-toting tourists to the national parks.

The essay is a crusty diatribe against the national park system in the late 1960s, but it feels surprisingly relevant. Abbey argues that the national park system is a development industry, and there are some "who believe without question that any and all forms of construction and development are intrinsic goods, in the national parks as well as anywhere else, who virtually identify quantity with quality and therefore assume that the greater the quantity of traffic, the higher the value received." According to a bitter Abbey, these people believe the parks "must be made fully accessible not only to people but also to their machines."

Some might argue that the national parks serve no such purpose, but after several conversations with Derek Doucet, the director of outdoor programs and club sports at Middlebury and our guide in Joshua Tree, I'm inclined to agree with Abbey's reasoning. According to Doucet

(who has been climbing in Joshua Tree for 30 years), the paved roads are a new development of the last 15 years and with them have come the caravans of campers, cameras, televisions and air-conditioning in tow. It begs the question: Why have we allowed the automobile to invade our wildest, most pristine wilderness areas in America? Were they not preserved for their wildness?

Selfish interest in wilderness preservation aside, I think it's worth honestly asking the question: why should we preserve the wilderness?

Many of the arguments on the subject are subjective, emotional arguments. But I'm more interested in the objective facts, in trying to figure out what role, if any, wilderness plays in our lives.

SALLE SHELTON

PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

in the pristine, untouched sense to which the word is most often attached — doesn't matter. Ecology is the objective study of ecosystems, and wilderness represents a certain kind of ecosystem. As Professor of Biology Salle Sheldon explains, "What I'd be tempted to say about wilderness is that it maintains a very high species diversity and genetic diversity. But that doesn't make it right or wrong, good or bad. There you come into a subjective thing."

From an objective ecological perspective, it's irrelevant whether pristine wilderness exists or not. In the natural world, some species survive, and others don't. Natural selection acts constantly in changing environments, and species will evolve to live in almost any habitat.

But to think more selfishly, does wilderness matter to our human ecology? Could wilderness be, as Abbey suggests, "a necessary part of civilization?" I can't help but think about my own response to being in the wilderness. My stress levels drop. My mind and body relax. It feels healthy, especially coming out of a high-stress environment like Middlebury.

A quick online search yielded several scholarly articles examining the impact of wilderness on the human psyche. One even used subjective stress levels as an indicator of the impact of exposure to wilderness. Several examine the impact of nature exposure on stress and attention span. But the body of literature seems small at first glance, in need of development and rounding out.

Here at Middlebury, wedged as we are between the Green Mountains and the Adirondacks, within striking distance of Burlington and Montreal, we're poised in an ideal position to advance the field of research surrounding the impact of wilderness compared to the impact urban environment on the human psyche. Middlebury's interdisciplinary environmental science program, its liberal arts curriculum and its land holdings all make it well suited to the task. And it's a worthwhile endeavor, because as the population increases and progress marches on, the wilderness seems to be fast disappearing. Before we pave over the last remaining corners, we should ask ourselves: what are we losing?

3RD ANNUAL BACH FESTIVAL

4/27

MEAD CHAPEL

8 P.M.

FREE FOR STUDENTS

2012-2013: YOUR

FARMSTAND

ONLINE FARMER'S

MARKET

GO/OBO OR GO/

YOURFARMSTAND

CITY OF ANGELS

4/19-20

MCCULLOUGH SOCIAL

SPACE

8 P.M.

\$6 FOR STUDENTS



# 18 ARTS & SCIENCES

## ONE LIFE LEFT

APRIL 11, 2013 | The Middlebury Campus

BY SANTIAGO AZPURUA-BORRAS

Eight years. Eight grueling years is what it took in development time for creative director Ken Levine (System Shock 2, BioShock) and his team at Irrational Games to create and release BioShock Infinite.

Trying to follow the footsteps of one of the most critically acclaimed games ever, BioShock, Levine took up a monumental task of living up to the expectations of his many fans, myself included. BioShock Infinite not only met those expectations, but completely surpassed them in every way shape and form.

The game pulls us out of the 1950's undersea objectivist dystopia of Rapture and rockets us towards the 1912 brightly-lit American dreamland of the floating city of Columbia. The player takes the role of Booker DeWitt, a pinkerton agent who, after accumulating quite a large gambling debt, is sent to Columbia to retrieve a girl named Elizabeth. Elizabeth is no common woman. She has the ability to manipulate "tears," small windows into other parallel times and dimensions. Because of this powerful ability, the religious fanatic Zachary Comstock, self-proclaimed prophet of Columbia, tries to do everything in his power to stop you in your tracks.

Columbia enjoys a tight-knit community, where stores all operate under the "honor system," kids openly play on the streets and festivals are held. During this time in the game I had no weapons, exploring this beautifully crafted world (and nabbing any currency, known as silver eagles, I could find for later use) when suddenly an airship arose up next to a small

grassy area. I was then treated to the sight of a barbershop quartet sing a hauntingly excellent cover of the Beach Boys song "God Only Knows." I put down the controller as I just listened to them sing, this was the exact moment I knew I was about to play something unlike anything else.

Moving along, I found myself entering a town carnival where I came upon the game's intelligently placed tutorial. Instead of obnoxiously telling me how to fire a gun or use a vigor (special powers that have varying abilities, very similar to plasmids of the previous game) the tutorials come in the form of carnival games; an informative, stylized and contextual way to introduce the games mechanics. In the first BioShock, Rapture had already gone to hell by the time you arrived, but in Infinite you are granted the pleasure of being able to see Columbia function as a city, it is still very much living breathing organism.

While a somewhat small occurrence in the game, you sometimes come face to face with the ugliness of Columbia; racism, segregation, sexism, classism not only run rampant, but are the societal norms of Columbia, the so-called "new garden of Eden." This is why the city of Columbia is such a great world; it's a fetishization of an America that once was but never was at the same time, underneath its technological marvel and beautiful architecture lie the ugliness of a society driven by fear and hatred, which at

some points in the game, offer up a dark reflection to the United States. One only has to look in places such as the beach arcade in Columbia where the "Irish and Colored" bathrooms are in complete disrepair while the "Whites only" bathroom stands with gleaming marble and brand new fixtures. The best part of the game is that none of this is ever made insultingly blatant to the player.

This game is meant to be explored and entire out-of-the-way areas have their own unique stories to tell, supplemented by the various Voxophones, collectibles in which characters expand on the story

and the game world, that are scattered throughout Columbia.

Once Booker actually gains a gun and rescues Elizabeth (the player spends a large majority of the game with her), he's off to try to escape this land and trade the girl for his debt. Now, Elizabeth is not an escort mission. During firefights, Elizabeth takes care of herself and you, the player. Elizabeth will revive you if you die, throw you ammo, salts (the thing needed for the Vigors) and health packs. She can even use her unique powers to open up tears scattered on the battlefields to help you out as well. When you're not fighting, she can use her lockpicking abilities to grant you access to new hidden areas that you otherwise would not be able to access. At the end of the day when I realized just how much she was supporting me, I realized that I was the one being escorted, not

her.

But she's not leaving quietly. Elizabeth is watched over by the Songbird, a hulking flying monstrosity who shares an interesting bond with Elizabeth. My biggest gripe with Infinite also comes from the Songbird; by the time I had reached the end of the game, I had wished that they had fleshed out his story a little more.

Speaking of the combat, the game's combat is satisfying, if not a bit jarring sometimes. The Vigors are a ton of fun as each one does something differently and can be combined with certain other vigors for new effects.

Infinite also addressed one of the bigger complaints I had with the first game; enemy variation. In Infinite not only will you be dealing with various types of soldiers (both from the Vox and otherwise) but sometimes you'll face enemies such as the Motorized Patriot, robot presidents once used as museums attractions who have been fitted with chain guns. You have not known the face of fear until you have seen robot George Washington running at you with a machine gun.

The ending of the game was great, but many will be angered or confused by it, but in that sense the ending succeeded in what it was made to do: spark discussion. When the credits began to roll, I realized I was finding myself legitimately upset by the fact that the game was over and I was eager to jump back in to find all the hidden collectibles I missed the first time around.

Through whatever means you can, play BioShock Infinite. This is the type of game that comes once in a generation.

## BIOSHOCK INFINITE

## THE REEL CRITIC

BY OAKLEY HAIGHT

"Spring Breakers" introduces itself with a montage of girls in bikinis on a beach in Florida; college kids drinking copious amounts of beer, dancing to club music. And when one of the girls starts sucking a red, white and blue Popsicle, it becomes obvious that "Spring Breakers" is trying to do something more than its title implies. Spring break is escapism – one character asserts that she wants to stay on break "forever." She wants it to change her life.

How much you enjoy "Spring Breakers" depends on how you receive its stylized and campy "mythical" spring break. This is a disorienting, hypnotic movie, with a neon color scheme and a lyrical, swirling camera. On the other hand, "Spring Breakers" has the subtlety of a stampede of buffalo, never pulling its punches with sometimes over-the-top metaphors.

Director Harmony Korine presents this debauchery without moral commentary – it is neither celebrated nor condemned. This is partly commendable, although if it's more interesting or ineffective, I'm not sure. "Spring Breakers" wants to be marketed in the same space as the movies its title mocks – it wants to both be part of the culture and somehow above it. It is likely that "Spring Breakers" becomes revered by the very people it reprimands.

The cast affirms the movie's pop status. The actors seem to have been selected on a meta-fictional level – that is, their careers exist within the world, a fact which "Spring Breakers" ostensibly parodies. James Franco is funny and effective as a gangster/rapper named Alien and Gucci Mane shows up, but not before we see the pair Vanessa Hudgens and Selena Gomez playing "bad girls." The question then becomes circular: Is it a parody of spring break culture? Is it a parody of a parody? The mixed message becomes corrosive –

the longer "Spring Breakers" goes on the farther it drifts from addressing any of these paradoxes. Ambiguity is one thing. "Spring Breakers" renders every person in its world a fractured caricature. Is it even possible to transcend this fact and main-

## SPRING BREAKERS

tain the audience's interest?

The moment-to-moment plot action in "Spring Breakers" is largely unremarkable. The essential narrative arc, although distorted in a veil of non-linearity, observes four college girls heading south for spring break, in search of shenanigans. They need money for the break, so they violently steal it. They want drugs and sex and an escape; they get a psychedelic jail-stint. How convenient it is that Franco's pervert-gangster figure, who they have never met, is around to bail them out. The shenanigans remain on the beach but decline from bikinis and beer to the girls firing rifles in the air, crying "spring break forever, y'all!"

This is a grotesque distortion of any "real" spring break – the plot action is intentionally silly but also very morbid and very dark. After their theft, the girls constantly wave around toy guns and real guns; they even shove one into a character's mouth; the innuendo goes too far.

The film has its dark moments, too. On the same beach, with the same bikinis, Alien stares contemplatively at the ocean waves, saying grimly "be careful of the sharks out there."

The movie is essentially a mythical interpretation of spring break ethics – that is, the ethics of wanting to live totally in the feel-good moment. The girls elevate spring break so much that it becomes a metaphor for all of those moments – how we cling to them and try to perpetually regain them.

This is a moment of maturity in the subversive career of Korine – that is in terms of theme, if not method. Of the four girls, the one who calls her grandmother from Florida, the one who is the good Christian ... her name is Faith. It's too much.

I will say that "Spring Breakers" is interesting. Of course, interesting is one of those particular phrases that forever exists inside quotation marks. But "Spring Breakers" tries so hard that it's easy to reciprocate by commending the good moments while still condemning the bad. This is a

beautiful piece of aesthetic cinema. The motifs and symbols here are frustratingly obvious – spring break is kind of silly; who would have thought? – but, partly for containing some of the strangest sexual innuendo of all time, and partly for its masterful visuals, it is hard to forget entirely about "Spring Breakers." You can't stay on spring break; you can't live in the moment of that week forever, you have to move on. Or is it the point that spring break is really cool? Watch "Spring Breakers" because it's pretty, and then try not to think about it.

## THIS WEEK ON WRMC 91.1 FM

### ZIG-A-ZIG-AAHH

Middlebury's only 90's tribute show, bringing you the best of the decade from a variety of genres. A time to remember boy bands, frosted tips, Macaulay Culkin and all of the other glories of our youth.

THURSDAY 6 - 8:00 P.M.

### 50 SHADES OF PERRY

You might know the band, you might know Katy ... you may even know Rick ... but have you met the most famous Perrys of all. Mitch and Mark Perry want to know, can you handle the truth?

FRIDAY 1 - 3 A.M.

### THE ADVENTURES OF DJ PIG BRAIN AND SIR SPITSALOT

Ahoy! Welcome to the Adventures of DJ PigBrain and SirSpitsalot. Come with us to explore the world through indie rock, stories and jokes.

FRIDAY 10 P.M. - 12 A.M.

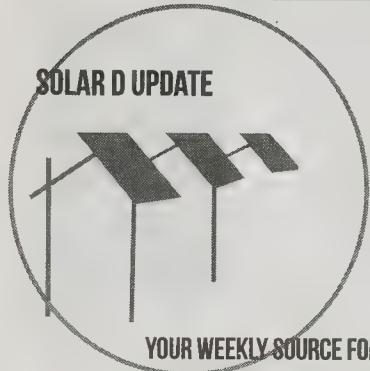
### ACROSS THE POND

Get ready for some cool jams from Ireland and the UK. Cozy up with some tea or rock out. Just keep calm and carry on listening to the best music from across the pond.

SATURDAY 8 P.M. - 10 P.M.



## SOLAR D UPDATE



## SOLAR D KICKS OFF CONSTRUCTION

By Owen Teach

After months of drawing and planning, the Middlebury Solar Decathlon team has finally started the InSite house. A furious week of construction completed over spring break in Ridgeline parking lot saw the skeleton structure of the house come together, including the foundation, wall panels, insulation and roof. The house, set to be completed over the summer by members of the team, will then be de-constructed and packed into shipping containers for its journey to the Solar Decathlon in Irvine, Calif. in early October.

To commemorate the occasion and to share the work that has been done so far, the team hosted members of the College community to a construction kick-off event

last Thursday, April 4 at the house's construction site. The day featured a speech by President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz, remarks from current team members, Solar Decathlon trivia and music from the Blue Laws, a student band.

For team communications leader Gwen Cook '13, the day marked an important step forward in the team's quest towards the Decathlon.

"Preparing for the work done over spring break has been a focus for the team over the past few months, and being able to accomplish our goals for that week was incredibly rewarding," said Cook. "I think it still feels a little unreal to actually be able to stand inside of the house that started two years ago as just an idea that we were bouncing around in brainstorming sessions."

Middlebury's team, representing the only liberal arts college in both the 2011 and 2013 competitions, continues to impress Liebowitz.

"I think the 2011 Self-Reliance team achieved so much and highlighted the strength of a liberal arts education in general," he said. "I believe this project, both the 2011 and 2013 competitions, are, as my wife Jessica said before the 2011 team was even assembled, 'the perfect project' for our students. She was so right."

In his remarks Liebowitz also touched on what he saw as a sense of "fatigue" after the 2011 effort, which has made him even more impressed at the success (thus far) of the 2013 effort.

RONALD D. LIEBOWITZ  
PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE

sense of support the team has felt from the administration.

"Both Jessica and Ron Liebowitz have been big supporters of the project since Addison Godine first mentioned the Solar Decathlon back in 2009. Although the administration was very supportive of the 2011 team, the College has really stepped up their game for us this time around," she said. "We have so many people in different departments of the college helping mentor our students and support our work."

The day was also significant in the project's fundraising schedule, as after the event the team received a donation of \$200,000 – the largest such one to date.

The team's budget is around \$1.4 million, which includes the house construction cost (\$250,000) as well as

transportation to and from Irvine, project consultants and much more. Finance team member Laura Romig '12.5 commented on the fundraising process.

"The success of raising this much money has really come from the unwavering support of the Middlebury alumni community, parents and friends. We are incredibly lucky to have as much support as we have had," said Romig. "I am [also] confident that we will reach our goal. We are a small school, but our network is large. We will continue to focus on reaching out to individuals, but will also put a lot of effort into contacting companies who can give us support. The more material gifts we can get, the faster we will reach our goal."

The event was an important part of expanding InSite's presence on campus and beyond, as communications is one of 10 competitions comprising the Decathlon. For Cook, the day also presented an important opportunity to update the community on the project's progress.

"We feel like we have been running

under the radar a little bit around campus, because we have been talking about our project for so long without people being able to really see what we were working on," she said. "I think that having the house here on campus for students, community members and alumni to come and see is going to get people pumped about what we are doing. We are especially excited for students to be able to watch the ongoing construction this spring, to share the house with the alumni at reunion this summer, and then to share the completed home with more parents, friends and alumni of the college at the East Coast Showing [in Middlebury] in August."

While the event marked an exciting step forward for the team, much work remains before the final product can be shipped to Irvine. All of the electrical systems, appliances, windows and finishing are yet to be laid down on the house. However, for the InSite team, the day was a source of pride and a reminder of what has been done so far.



COURTESY OF ANTHEA VIRAGJ

President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz congratulates the Solar Decathlon team.

## WANT A PIECE OF THE ACTION?

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# PANTHER PROFILE

Interviews with Middlebury's Student Athletes

By Christine Schozer

Emily Dodge '13 (Auburn, Maine) is a member of the Panther track and field team. Dodge started running track at the age of eight because her coach gave out lollipops post-practice and she loved competing. She took a six-year break from track to pursue gymnastics, and only joined the school track team partway through the season in eighth grade at the encouragement of her teacher. In high school, Dodge competed in the long jump, triple jump and 100-meter high hurdles and was a five-time state champion. At Middlebury, Dodge competes in all four events and has been named all-NESCAC and all-Division III New England. Dodge is a psychology major and French minor.



1

What are your goals for this season?

I try to avoid time and distance-oriented goals, especially since they are often dictated by the weather conditions. I'm hoping to end my college career proud of the work I put in and having stepped up to the pressure of championship meets. I also wouldn't mind a healthy ankle and kicking a little booty at NESCACs.

2

What was your first memory of the sport?

The first time I long jumped eight feet. It was the closest thing to flying I had ever felt. It made my second-grade self realize anything was possible.

3

What is your most recent stand out memory?

The team's spirit at NESCACs last year. So many people were improving upon their seed times and dropping personal records that my fear of under-performing was replaced by excitement to keep the good times rolling. Emma McGuirk '15 and I had an absolute blast feeding off each other's energy in the triple jump. It was a great reminder that though some think otherwise, track is indeed a team sport.

4

What has been a pivotal moment in your career so far?

Not really a single moment [has stood out], but last year when Bill Edson joined the team as the horizontal jumps coach, he renewed my love for jumping and brought the jumping crew together. And he does it all on a volunteer basis! We call him "The Boss" for a reason.

5

How has life as an athlete helped you as a student?

As a former gymnast, when 10.0s, [or perfect scores], existed, I was bound to end up a perfectionist. Track reminds me both that room for improvement always exists and that perfection doesn't. I apply these mindsets to academics to push myself, but also to maintain sanity.

6

Do you still love the sport?

For the same reason I loved it when I was eight – the feeling of power it gives you when you're flying in the jumps, gaining momentum off of the hurdles or finishing that last dang [200 meters] in the workout. Also because of the team – they're the perfect mixture of welcoming and weird.

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# Men's golf opens season with win at RIC

By Kevin Yochim

After months of training, the men's golf team opened its spring season in impressive fashion last Friday and Saturday, April 5 and 6, by winning the Rhode Island College Spring Invitational, hosted at Triggs Memorial Golf Course in Providence, R.I. The Panthers finished with a combined score of 620 strokes, easily topping runners-up Endicott College (653) and Husson University (658). Elms College and host RIC rounded out the top five.

Tough conditions made the already difficult course even more of a challenge, with gusting winds and cold temperatures all weekend. The greens were firm, fast and crowned. The men responded by playing somewhat conservatively, putting the ball in the right place and planning their shots well on the way to victory.

"The team is coming along real well," said head coach Bill Beaney. "They adapted well and played very smart with good course management."

Rob Donahoe '14 and William Prince '13 led the way for the Panthers, tying for the lowest score of the weekend with 151

strokes each. Donahoe was able to edge out Prince in a tiebreaker, earning match medalist honors. The two golfers were very consistent, with Donahoe shooting 76-75 and Prince 75-76.

"As is typical early in the season, there were some bright spots and some weak spots on an individual and team level," said Prince. "Going forward we are going to work hard to improve upon these weaknesses."

Max Alley '14 was just behind Prince and Donahoe all weekend long, finishing with a 157 strokes – good enough for fourth place overall in the tournament. Eric Laorr '15 shot 80-81 for a total of 161 strokes, finishing seventh overall. Chris Atwood contributed a 165 with a strong 79 on Saturday and finished 12th. Charlie Garcia '15 rounded out the Panthers squad with 172, shooting an 86 each day. As evidenced by having five of the top 12 individual finishers, the men's team boasts a deep starting lineup this year.

"The win this weekend was great for us in terms of getting in a winning mindset," said Prince. "We want to win every weekend this spring, so this will

help us get in the mindset of dominating and closing out a tournament."

The Panthers head south next weekend, April 13 and 14, to play in the Manhattanville Spring Invitational at Lyman Orchards Golf Club in Wallingford, Conn. There they will face stiff competition, including divisional rivals Trinity and Williams, in what will surely be good preparation for the

NESCAC Championship at the end of April.

"I hope that this weekend will give us a great idea of the small things we need to work on and tie some loose ends together," said Beaney.

It will also be an opportunity for the team to figure out its top five.

"We have a deep team with a lot of good competition in house," he said.



FILE PHOTO

The men's golf team started out the spring season with a win on the road, winning the Rhode Island College Spring Invitational. Rob Donahoe '14 and Billy Prince '13 tied for the top place. They will play again on April 13 and 14 at the Manhattanville Invite.

## Panthers advance to 11-6 with sweep over Union

CONTINUED FROM 24

with two runs scored and three RBIs. The team was unable to end their visit to Florida with a win, dropping their final game of the trip 9-0 to Wisconsin-Whitewater in six innings. Poracky finished 2-3 in the game, while four other Middlebury players singled.

Middlebury capped the spring break trip with a 2-1 series win over Amherst. The Panthers faltered with an opening loss, despite rallying in the bottom of the seventh trailing 4-0 to score three runs. Hoffman went 4-4 with two doubles and two RBIs, while Boylan claimed a double.

The Panthers bounced back on the second day of their three-game affair against the Jeffs. Middlebury scored 21 runs on 23 hits to claim two victories, taking the first game 10-4 before earning an 11-3 win in game two. Hoffman finished the three-game series going 8-10 with three doubles, five runs scored and five RBIs. This performance put her batting average at .545 on the season to earn NESCAC Player of the Week Honors.

Middlebury continued non-conference play after spring break spring starting with a doubleheader win against Castleton on Tuesday, April 2, earning a 10-2 win in five innings for a game one victory and a 7-0 win in the nightcap.

The Panthers scored in each of the five innings of their first game, starting with an RBI single in the top of the first by Poracky that drove in Sable. They then added an unearned run in the top of second and three more tallies in the top of the third. Vachow knocked a run with a single in the top of the fourth and came around to score on error before Hoffman ripped a two-run single to center, and was then driven in by Vachow on sacrifice fly to extend their lead to 10-0.

The Spartans notched their only runs in the bottom of the fifth to break-up the shutout in which Maehr held them to just five hits, allowing two unearned runs and striking out six. Hoffman finished the game 3-4 with two runs scored and three RBIs, while Vachow went 2-3 with three RBI.

In game two, the Panthers started with a two-run home run by Boylan in the top of the second inning, adding to their lead in the fifth after a double from Vachow. In the next inning Poracky popped an RBI double to center and was driven in by Alex Scibetta '15 on a sacrifice fly to

gain a 6-0 lead. Poracky finished the scoring earning another RBI on a single to left-center in the top of the seventh.

The Spartans were held to just three hits by Alexa Lesenskyj '14 and Neve Stearns '16, who combined to pitch a shutout. Poracky finished 2-3 with two runs scored and two driven in.

**"One thing we're looking at is communication...staying sharp defensively and being more efficient offensively."**

KELLY BEVERE  
HEAD COACH

Middlebury finished off the week strong with a two-game sweep at Union on Thursday, April 4, ending the first game 7-1 before only needing six innings to pick up a 10-2 victory in the second game.

The Panthers jumped out to an early lead through a long ball from Hoffman, before she struck again in the top of the third with a single good enough to double the lead. A solo shot from Sable gave the Panthers a 3-1 edge before Stern followed up with a home run. Poracky extended the lead with a RBI single to score in Stern, before Middlebury added yet another run as Vachow lined the ball down left field to bring Stern home. Hoffman hit her

second home run of the game to tie the school record on a two-run shot to finish off the scoring for Middlebury.

Morris shut down the Dutchwomen offense, limiting Union to just four hits in the game and one run.

The Panthers followed up their first win with another strong showing, responding in the first inning with an RBI single from Stern. Hoffman continued the surge with a double to the gap to level the score. Middlebury was able to add on three more runs with RBI singles by Emily Kraytenberg '14 and Alex Scibetta '14. Vachow was able to get Hoffman home as she reached on a double before Sable added on her RBI tally in the top of the fifth as she doubled to score in two more runs. Middlebury added a final run to make it 10-2 as Sable reach on an error.

While Bevere is happy with the start her team has made, she knows there is much to be improved upon.

"One thing we're looking at is communication, [between] outfield and infield and vice versa, staying sharp defensively and being more efficient offensively," she said.

The Panthers return to action against Skidmore on Wednesday, April 10 before travelling to NESCAC rivals Hamilton on Friday, April 12.

## EDITORS' PICKS



DAMON HATHEWAY (104-89, .539)



FRITZ PARKER (17-16, .515)



OWEN TEACH (66-70, .485)



ALEX EDEL (85-100, .459)

Who will win Saturday's NESCAC women's lacrosse showdown between Middlebury and Trinity?

MIDDLEBURY

Has ESPN compared the team's winning streak with the Heat or Blackhawks yet? No? Anyone got Stephen A. Smith's number?

MIDDLEBURY

If there's one thing I've learned this season, it's never to pick against them.

TRINITY

Yea, I did it.

MIDDLEBURY

They have shown consistent strength. Plus, I hosted Megan Griffin '16 on her recruit trip.

Over/under 9.5 goals for men's lacrosse vs. Trinity

OVER

Trinity is allowing a league-worst 11 goals per game. And they haven't seen Jon Broome '16 yet.

OVER

A Bantam is a small chicken... that's pretty lame.

OVER

Trinity is last year's Middlebury.

OVER

Tough question, but if stay on track I think they can be over.

Will either men's or women's tennis lose a team match this weekend?

NO

That's a clown question, bro.

NO

Middlebury has played a much harder early-season schedule than anyone else in the 'CAC.

NO

One of the men's matches was cancelled, which improves our odds!

NO

Colby and Bowdoin are beatable opponents for the Panthers.

Who will win this weekend's Nationals-Braves series?

NATIONALS

With all due respect to Bryce Harper, this was a far more difficult question.

NATS

DC or nothing.

NATS

With all due respect to Damon Hatheway, no it wasn't.

NATIONALS

I'm going to some of their games this summer so they better be good.



## THE MIDDLEBURY GREAT EIGHT

RANKING	TEAM
<i>Owen's Opinions</i>	
1	<b>WOMEN'S LACROSSE</b> <i>The undefeated Panthers are firing on all cylinders.</i>
2	<b>MEN'S TENNIS</b> <i>Their 13-1 record to start the year has them slotted at #2.</i>
3	<b>WOMEN'S TENNIS</b> <i>A tough loss against Emory — their only blemish of late.</i>
4	<b>MEN'S LACROSSE</b> <i>Their eight wins this year is already double last year's total. It's a start.</i>
5	<b>SOFTBALL</b> <i>A sweep at Union has them flying high.</i>
6	<b>MEN'S GOLF</b> <i>Robbie Donahoe '15 and the Fresh Prince '13 pace the Panthers Rhode Island.</i>
7	<b>TRACK AND FIELD</b> <i>They don't play games so it's hard to judge.</i>
8	<b>BASEBALL</b> <i>An 11-1 loss in a 0-3 weekend vs. Amherst was only made better by Kyle Finck's '14 RBI.</i>

# Women's tennis falls to Emory, bounces back against Wesleyan

By Courtney Mountifield

The Middlebury women's tennis team's rise to the top seems even more clear after an 8-3 start to the season. After the team won three of its five matches during its trip to California over the spring recess, the Panthers split a pair of home matches against third-ranked Emory and NESCAC foe Wesleyan, April 5 and 6.

The spring break trip is usually a good indication as to where the team is at this part of the season, and they showed that they are a force to be reckoned with going forward. The five matches in California consisted of a match at Cal State Northridge, a Division I team, Claremont, Depauw, Williams and Pomona-Pitzer. The four Division III teams were ranked second, 11th, fifth, and 12th in the country, respectively. The ninth-ranked Middlebury women were able to come away with three wins, besting Depauw, Williams and Pomona-Pitzer while falling to Claremont and Cal State Northridge.

The victory over fifth-ranked Williams was particularly significant for Middlebury as the Ephs, in addition to being a conference rival, have won five consecutive national championships.

"The ladies all know that we have to beat teams like that sometimes three times in a season, so there is a lot of work still to do," said head coach Mike Morgan. "But for that match, against that team, playing at a beautiful location in Southern California, it was a lot of fun."

Held at the prestigious Riviera Tennis Club, the match started with Middlebury sweeping all three doubles points, including the first-year pair of Lauren Amos '16 and

Margot Marchese '16 squeezing out an 8-6 win at the third position. Seniors Brittney Faber '13 and Leah Kepping '13 brought their experience into the match and rolled through their opposition 8-1. The singles matches were tighter, in which Middlebury took three of the total six singles matches. The singles wins came from Lok-Sze Leung '15, Ria Gerger '16 and Margot Marchese '16. Gerger ran through her opponent on her way to a 6-4, 6-0 victory at the no. 2 position. Leung, meanwhile, gave Middlebury the necessary fifth point by a score of 6-3, 7-5 over Kara Shoemaker who has defeated Leung — the second-ranked singles player in the country — in the past. Marchese, meanwhile, fought against the 42nd-ranked player in the country as she outlasted the experienced Nancy Worley of Williams 6-3, 2-6, 6-4. Marchese demonstrated her ability to excel under pressure with wins in both singles and doubles. The 5-4 outcome marked Middlebury's first victory over Williams in six years.

"It's always a great feeling to beat someone or a team that we've struggled with," Gerger said. "I think that it shows our potential for this year, and the hard work we've put in. However, we aren't satisfied yet. We want to beat them again in the NESCAC tournament and hopefully at the NCAA [championships]."

The Middlebury women then blanked Depauw 9-0 and downed Pomona-Pitzer by 7-2.

With Gerger out for the singles matches, however, the team dropped its first match of the season to a Division III team, falling to Claremont 7-2. While the Panthers only

picked up two wins, they lost a number of close finishes. Leung lost 2-6, 7-6 (4), 10-7 to Kristin Lim, the third-ranked singles player nationally, while Marchese fell 6-4, 1-6, 6-1 and Sadie Shackelford '16 dropped another three-setter 4-6, 6-2, 6-0. Shackelford competed well in her match given she was unaware she would be competing until shortly before it began.

A week later, the Panthers held matches against Emory and Wesleyan. They lost Emory by a score of 7-2, with wins coming at the no. 1 and 2 single positions. Leung avenged her loss in the ITA Finals to Gabbie Clark, the top-ranked player in the country, with a dominant 6-1, 6-3 victory. Gerger also won comfortably, defeating Emory's Marissa Levine 6-3, 6-4. Kepping was unable to compete in the singles against Emory, so first-year Lauren Amos '16 took over at the number six position and showed moments of brilliance, but eventually went down 6-4, 6-1.

Head coach Mike Morgan had many highlights from the California trip and the weekend of matches they held at home, but he highlighted the importance of improving in doubles a key to moving forward.

"I think the team is playing incredibly well, for being tested so early in the season," he said. "It is really nice right now to feel like we can get back to work on some of our projects as we get ready for the end of the season."

The team will have an opportunity to demonstrate their improvements this coming weekend when they travel to Maine. The Panthers play at Bowdoin on Saturday, April 13 and at Colby on Sunday, April 14.

## Baseball swept by Lord Jeffs, Ephs, falls to 1-5 in NESCAC

By Chad Clemens

Middlebury's bats were silent this past weekend at Amherst as the Panthers suffered a sweep at the hands of the Lord Jeffs, dragging their season record down to 4-10 (1-5 NESCAC). After returning from their annual spring trip to Arizona with a series loss against Williams, the Panthers are off to a slower start than anticipated.

On Friday, April 5, Amherst propelled to an 11-0 win on the momentum of the powerful performance by Jeffs' starting pitcher Bob Cook. His effective pitch location and off-speed repertoire kept the potent Middlebury hitting line-up off balance throughout the game. Surrendering no hits and only one walk through the first eight innings, Cook's no-hit bid was broken by a pinch-hit single by Steven Bodine '16 with one out in the ninth.

Middlebury starter Eric Truss '15 threw two strong innings before running into trouble. In the bottom of the third inning Amherst junior Alex Hero took Truss deep for a two-run home run. Then in the fourth inning Amherst tacked on four more runs, three of them unearned. Andy Dittrich '13 provided two solid innings of relief before Amherst struck again for five more runs in the seventh. First-year Sawyer Olson '16 closed out the game for Middlebury with a hitless eighth inning, but the Panthers offense failed to score a run.

The Panthers rebounded for the first game of Saturday's double-header with a strong pitching performance from Logan Mobley '15. Mobley went the distance in the shortened, seven-inning game, scattering nine hits — seven of which were singles — and four runs (three earned) while striking out three and walking two.

Yet Middlebury's offensive struggles continued, as the Panthers failed to capitalize in the second inning after getting the first two men on base, and racking just one hit through the first four innings. In the fifth, however, a pair of Amherst errors and three straight hits by Thomas Driscoll '13, Michael Morris '13 and Alex Kelly '14 brought three runs to the plate to tie the game.

Unfortunately, the momentum promptly shifted in the bottom half of the inning with a leadoff triple by Amherst's Taiki Kasuga followed by an RBI single by first-year Conner Gunn to bring in what would become the game-winning run as the Jeffs took game two by a score of 4-3.

In game three of the series, the Panthers again struggled against Amherst's pitching, spraying seven hits over nine innings, but managed to score just one run. Kelly and Max Araya '16 both went 2-4 with a single and double each, while junior Kyle Fink's '14 RBI groundout in the seventh drove in the Panthers' sole run in an 11-1 loss.

Amherst's nine-hitter Jonathan Ramirez had the Panthers' number, driving in five of the Lord Jeffs' 11 runs and collected a hit in each of his four at-bats. Mike Odenwaelder and Andrew Vandini also had multiple hits in the six- and seven-hole, respectively, for the Lord Jeffs making up for an underwhelming display by the top half of the lineup, which combined to go 4-19 in the game against Middlebury pitchers Cooper Byrne '15, Mark Dickerson '15 and John Popkowski '13.

Two weekends ago at Williams, the Panthers picked up a 9-3 Friday win riding Eric Truss's stellar complete-game, three-run, four-strike-out performance. Saturday did not fare as well, however, as Middlebury dropped the doubleheader with scores of 5-2 and 11-2, respectively. The scores do not reflect the performances of the Panther pitching staff, however, as less than half of the Ephs' runs were earned in both games.

The Panthers' offensive slump plagued this series as well with the team hitting .245 and scoring 13 runs total over the course of three games, significantly below the .355 batting and eight runs-per-game average racked up over the seven-game spring recess trip to Arizona. Yet despite the successes of Middlebury's offense back in the warmer climate, the Panthers finished the trip 2-5, something Dittrich attributed to inconsistencies in the team's offensive and

defensive performances.

"[So far] our biggest weakness is the inability to put a full game together where both the pitching and hitting click at the same time," said Dittrich. "[Besides] our second game against Amherst ... the four other NESCAC games have unfortunately been pretty lopsided with either the pitching staff or hitters, or both struggling."

However he remains positive in his outlook for the team, noting the steady improvements of the pitching staff since the Arizona trip which saw the Panthers allow 78 total runs in seven games. Now it's the offense that needs to show similar improvement.

"The hitters have shown that we can score a lot of runs," Dittrich said. "We as a team need to make small adjustments during games. Once we start to do that we should be putting ourselves in better opportunities to succeed."

The baseball team got back on track on Tuesday, April 9, picking up a road win over Plattsburgh by a final score of 5-3. Dylan Sinnickson '15 went two for four to pace the Panthers, including the game-tying RBI single in the eighth inning. Noah Bakker '15 pitched four scoreless innings in relief to pick up the win for Middlebury.

The Panthers look to strike back against Hamilton this weekend with a three-game home series at Forbes Field.

## Men's lacrosse improves to 8-2 on the season

CONTINUED FROM 24

"It always feels good to win a NESCAC game, but the Amherst win felt especially good," said Chapman.

The next day the Panthers traveled to Boston to challenge conference foe Tufts. The Jumbos took control for the majority of the game and came out with a one-point lead to end the game with a score of 14-13.

The Panthers started the game off with a 4-1 lead before Tufts turned the momentum to tie the score at the beginning of the second period. Early in the fourth period, the Jumbos took

control of the game, running their lead to six at 14-8.

In the final nine minutes of the game, Redmond started a run of goals that led to four more Panther goals. Even with the final run, however, Middlebury fell just short and the final buzzer blew with Tufts holding a 14-13 lead.

Middlebury once again outshot their components, this time 47-41. The Jumbos held advantages in faceoffs and ground balls.

"Our plan for our last four games is to get better each game and play a complete game for all 60 minutes and our goal going into NESCACs is to be clicking

on all cylinders and playing our best lacrosse," said Chapman.

Middlebury returns to action when they play host to Trinity this Saturday, April 13. The Panthers then travel to Skidmore for a non-conference game against Skidmore on Tuesday, April 16.

"Coming off a disappointing season last year the mentality of the team this year was to play with a chip on our shoulder," said Ford. "We had something to prove this year and that was to carry on the tradition of Middlebury lacrosse. The next four games are all equally important, as every team we play has a great program, and we need to come out

and play our best to get some momentum heading into NESCACs."

While the Panthers certainly have much left to prove, the team has already recorded twice as many wins as last year's squad, which finished 4-9.

With just four contests remaining before the start of the NESCAC playoffs, the Panthers are inching towards a trip back to the conference tournament after not making the tournament last year. They will face their next NESCAC opponent Saturday, April 13, at home against Trinity, and then will only face two more NESCAC opponents before playoffs begin.



# Track teams sweep Springfield and Bowdoin

By Joe MacDonald

The Middlebury men's and women's track and field teams competed in two meets in California over spring recess, March 23 and 30, and in a three-team meet at Springfield College on Saturday, April 6, with the teams competing well in all three meets.

The Panthers opened up the season at Point Loma Nazarene University on March 23 in the Ross and Sharon Irwin Invitational. After practicing outside only sporadically during the preceding weeks, the Panthers were excited to get outside in California.

"They're two different sports, indoor track and outdoor track," said coach Martin Beatty. "So we jumped into our first meet almost cold. And I was really happy with the performances that we had."

Kevin Chu '14 won the 100-meter hurdles and placed third in the 400-meter hurdles. Panther men Bryan Holtzman '14 and Diego Galan Donlo '14 also captured victories in the 100 meters and high jump, respectively. Additionally, the 4x800-meter relay team, comprised of Jack Davies '13, Patrick Hebble '13, Sam Craft '14 and Wilder Schaaf '14 paced the field with a time of 7:50.44.

The women's 4x800-meter team of Juliet Ryan-Davis '13, Addie Tousley '13, Alison Maxwell '15 and Sarah Guth '15 also finished first. Ryan-Davis also won the 400 meters while Tousley won the 1,500 and Dana Tripp '14 out tossed the rest of the field with a hammer throw of 128'8".

There were more impressive finishes

on both the men's and women's sides. Davies placed second in the 1,500 meters. First-years Mark Perry '16 and Aaron de Toledo '16 finished 2-3 in the 5,000 meters. The 4x100-meter relay team of Holtzman, Chu, Fritz Parker '15 and Sam Rives '15 also finished second. Also finishing 2-3 were Jason McCallum '14 and Conor Simons '16 in the pole vault. Peter Hetzler '14 placed second in the 400 meters. For the women, Maxwell finished third in the 1,500 meters. Also finishing third were Grace Doering '13 in the high jump and Carly Andersen '16 in the javelin.

Middlebury competed at the same venue on March 30 and again experienced a great deal of success.

"We're working pretty hard during the week," said Beatty, "so the second meet, the people who are well prepared from the whole year, who are in great shape, they're going to respond well from the hard work and do well."

Craft defeated the field of 68 in the 800 meters, while Hebble won the 1,500 meters, Louis Cornacchione '13 won the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 56.55. In the women's 800 meters, Ryan-Davis, Tousley and O'Brien finished 1-3. In the 5,000 meters, Katie Carlson, Guth and Caroline Guiot pulled off the same feat. Emily Dodge '13 won the 100-meter hurdles. Andersen bested the field with a javelin throw of 130'. Tripp finished second in the women's hammer throw, while Chu placed second in the men's 110-meter hurdles and Deklan Robinson '16 finished second in the high jump.

Additionally, Davies won the 3,000 steeplechase, earning himself NESCAC

Performer of the Week accolades

"He's a stud," said Beatty. "He's expected to do really well. We're hoping he'll end up being a national champion; he has that type of capability."

When asked if any newcomers had impressed during the week in California, Beatty singled out thrower Carly Andersen. Andersen finished second in the javelin throw at the first meet and won the second meet. She also competed in the discus and hammer throws.

"She cranked out a great throw of 130 feet in the second meet. And there's more there, she has a couple of technique things that she needs to work on. She can go even further and hopefully go to NCAAs."

"I was throwing okay in practices," said Andersen, "The first throw of the second meet was a PR by about two feet, and I hadn't thrown that far since junior year of high school."

Andersen has received coaching and guidance from older throwers and assistant coach Luke Hotte.

"There are a lot of little tips that people have about how to prepare for a meet," said Andersen, "Just how to practice and how to be deliberate so you get the best results."

"NCAA nationals is the top 22 women and I think I'm 16th or something now so hopefully I keep it up and get to go." Beatty commented on the team's trip to California and its value to the team.

"It's a great bonding trip," he said.

On Saturday, April 6, Middlebury competed against Springfield and Bowdoin in a meet hosted by Springfield. Both the men's and women's teams won

the three-team meet.

Alexandra Morris '16 won the 400 meters. Andersen again was victorious in the javelin throw. The women dominated the 1,500 meters, with Ryan-Davis, Maxwell, O'Brien and Guth finishing 1-4.

For the men, Holtzman won the 100 meters and Hetzler the 400 meters. Schaaf took home the victory in the 1,500 meters. Stu Fram '13, Taylor Shortsleeve '15 and James Lynch '16 swept the podium in the 110-meter hurdles. Chu and Jake Wood '15 went 1-2 in the 400-meter hurdles. Anthony Lee '13 won the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 9:23.29. The Middlebury men's teams won both the 4x100-meter and 4x400-meter relays. Kyle Harrold '13 also won the pole vault and Dan Bent '13 won the triple jump for the Panthers.

## BY THE NUMB3RS

**5** The smallest margin of victory for women's lax against a NESCAC opponent this year.

Consecutive wins for women's softball.

**13** Number of events won by the track and field team in their meet at Springfield.

Number of matches the women's tennis team dropped against Wesleyan.

**3** Number of sports editors watching the NCAA championship game instead of editing.

# Men's tennis bests Trinity, Wesleyan en route to 13-1 start

By Lok Sze Leung

The Middlebury men's tennis team is the ninth-ranked team in the country after starting 13-1 on the season thus far. This past weekend, April 6 and 7, the Panthers scored a pair of victories over Wesleyan and Trinity. In addition, the team concluded its week-long spring recess trip to Southern California by winning eight of the 10 contests, losing only to top-ranked Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (CMS) and to Ventura College in an unrecorded match.

On Saturday, despite a 7-2 verdict, the men saw unanticipated resistance from Wesleyan. The Cardinals managed to pull out victories in the no. 1 and no. 2 doubles matches. However, they were no match to the Panthers in singles, as Middlebury snatched wins on all six courts in singles, including a three-set conquest by junior Brantner Jones '14 at the second singles match.

After some reshuffling in the doubles lineup, the team had a decisive 8-1 sweep over 28th-ranked Trinity on Sunday. The doubles duos of Alex Johnston '14 and Andrew Lebovitz '14 and James Burke '14 and Jones handled their opponents with relative ease in the first and second doubles matches, respectively. Senior tri-captain Will Oberrender '13 and Chris Frost '15, meanwhile rallied to a tight 9-7 victory in the third doubles slot.

The team then won five of its six singles matches. First-year Ari Smolyar '16 proved his ability and competitiveness, dropping just two games in the fourth singles match. Classmate Allen Jackson '16 went through a see-saw battle before falling 4-6, 4-6 at the no. 5 spot. Relying on his lengthy strokes, fellow first-year Jackson Frons '16 seized a victory in a 10-point super-tiebreaker after splitting the first two sets.

The Panthers' run in California was highlighted by their four clashes against top-25 teams, including 10th-ranked UC Santa Cruz, 12th-ranked Redlands, number 24 Pomona-Pitzer, and CMS, which tops the national polls.

The team's encounter with UC Santa Cruz on March 24 was an emotional one for head coach Bob Hansen, who was the head

coach of the Banana Slugs tennis program for 30 years before making his way to Middlebury two years ago.

In contrast to the final score of 8-1, each of the matches came down to the wire. After taking two of the tree doubles matches, juniors Zach Bruchmiller '14 and Jones both recorded quick two-set victories. Yet the Panthers faced much resilience from the spirited Banana Slugs as all four remaining singles matches went into third sets. Eventually, the combined determination and fight of Johnston, first-year Palmer Campbell '16, tri-captain Spencer Lunghino '13 and Teddy Fitzgibbons '14 propelled the team to victory.

Two days later, the squad faced Redlands in a tricky environment on the Bulldogs' home turf. In doubles play, Fitzgibbons and Lebovitz were the only Middlebury pair to come out on top, with an 8-4 win. And despite Jones's dominant performance in the no. 2 singles match, both Johnston and Lunghino succumbed to two gusty opponents.

At this point, the Middlebury men knew they would need to take the three remaining singles matches in order to win. With his consistent groundstrokes and exceptional willpower, Fitzgibbons counterpunched to a 6-4, 6-3 victory, leaving the job of completing the comeback with Campbell and Bruchmiller. Both Panthers exhibited remarkable mental toughness as they rode the momentum of one another's matches and pulled off the tremendous comeback. Soon after Campbell's 6-4 win in the third set, Bruchmiller gave Middlebury the fifth point in a thrilling 7-4 tiebreaker in the deciding set. The squad had its first 5-4 triumph of the season.

The Panthers then faced the Sagehens of Pomona, a traditional West Coast tennis powerhouse. At Pomona's Pauley Tennis Complex, doubles contests were close throughout. The big-serving pair of Johnston and Lunghino as well as the combination of Fitzgibbons and Lebovitz were winners in a pair of tiebreakers as Middlebury swept the three matches.

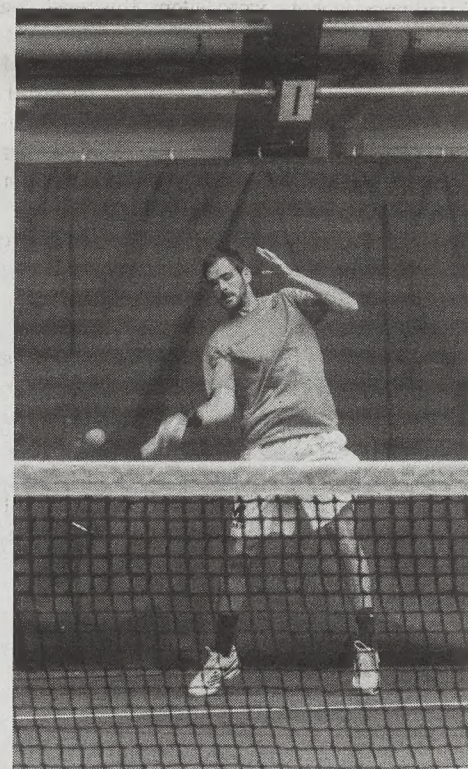
There were a lot of tight sets in singles play, as well. Campbell pulled out a 6-4 7-6

(4) decision, while Jones went down against an in-form regionally ranked player. At the top spot, however, Johnston did not give his opponent any breathing space as he pounced on a 6-3 6-0 verdict, cementing the Panthers' 8-1 victory.

In the final match of the trip, CMS backed up its number one ranking by taking all three doubles points and five of the six singles matches. The Middlebury men fought hard, but were unable to turn the table as they suffered a 8-1 loss, their first this season to a Division III foe. Campbell was the lone bright spot that night. After trading blows for more than an hour-and-a-half, he squeezed out a three-set victory. Johnston and Fitzgibbons, meanwhile, suffered heartbreaking losses. Johnston went down in the third-set super tiebreaker while Fitzgibbons was defeated by a two-point margin in the tiebreaker of the final set.

"We are happy with some of our good performances in California and are looking forward to the upcoming conference matches," said Lunghino.

Due to the cancelation of a much-anticipated clash with NESCAC rivals, and sixth-ranked Bowdoin, the Panthers will return to action when they travel to Waterville, Maine to play Colby on Sunday, April 14.



BISWASH GHIMIRE

Top singles player, Alex Johnston '14 prepares to hit a forehand. Johnston collected a pair of wins as his team improved to 13-1 on the season.

## PANTHER SCOREBOARD

**MEN'S TENNIS** vs. Trinity

8-1 W

The Panther's only drop one match against the Bantam's to advance to 13-1.

**WOMEN'S LACROSSE** vs. Tufts

15-8 W

Men's lacrosse falls to 8-2 on the year after second one-point NESCAC loss.

**MEN'S LACROSSE** vs. Tufts

14-13 L

The women cruise to a decisive win with NESCACs coming up. The Panther's sweep Union to complete their six game streak.

**SOFTBALL** vs. Union

10-2 W

**BASEBALL** vs. Amherst

11-1 L

Amherst impresses with 11-run showing.



# Women's lacrosse remains undefeated

By Gabe Weissmann

The Middlebury women's lacrosse team has continued to dominate every opponent they match up against, holding a record of 10-0 after two NESCAC victories over Amherst and Tufts this past weekend, April 6 and 7.

Middlebury has had a packed schedule over the last two weeks with wins in four spring break games against Wesleyan, Gettysburg, Stevens Institute and Bowdoin. The Gettysburg and Bowdoin wins were particularly key for the Panthers, as both opponents entered ranked in the national top 10.

Despite their grueling schedule over break, the Panthers returned to beat Hamilton before defeating Amherst by a score of 13-4 and Tufts by a score of 15-8.

Middlebury was led against Amherst by Katie Ritter '15, who netted three goals on the day. Michaela Colbert '13, Ellen Halle '13 and Laurel Pascal '16 each added two goals in the win.

Middlebury's offense got out to a quick start early, jumping to a 5-0 lead. From that point, however, it was the Panther defense which stepped up to assure the victory. Hannah Deoul '14, Heather Marrison '13, Chrissy Ritter '16 and Neile Weeks '13 each contributed to the defense's stellar performance,

while goalie Alyssa Palomba '14 recorded three saves.

"One thing we have been working on has been our re-defend which we executed well especially on Saturday, one time ending up in a beautiful goal from Emma Kramer '13 and Ellen Halle," said Margaret Souther '13.

Middlebury tied Amherst for the day on ground balls, but were able to outshoot their opponent 31-12. Middlebury was able to dominate draws throughout the game, winning 14 of 18. The Panthers also completed 70 percent of their clears, making it easy for them to gain possession of the ball on Amherst's half of the field and allowing them to work their offense.

After dominating Amherst, Middlebury quickly reloaded and triumphed over Tufts the following day by a score of 15-8. The Panthers jumped out to an 8-5 halftime lead, but quickly separated themselves from the Jumbos by scoring the first seven goals of the second half.

Kramer finished with four goals against Tufts, while Halle and Pascal each finished with three goals and an assist. Palomba recorded five saves in 50 minutes of play, before being relieved by Katie Mandigo '16, who recorded a save in the game's final 10 minutes.

The Panthers dominated Tufts in the faceoff circle, grabbing 18 of 24 draws in the game to keep



ANTHEA VIRAGH

Catherine Fowler '15 reaches to intercept a Tufts pass during the team's 15-8 win Sunday, April 7. The Sunday win completed their double header weekend, during which they also beat Amherst.

their momentum going in the second half. Middlebury was near perfect in clearing against Tufts, successfully clearing 15 of 16 attempts.

"Both Amherst and Tufts are always great opponents, but we showed how much depth we have with our multiple scorers and assistants," said Souther. "Liza

Herzog '14 was incredible on the draw for both games while Heather Marrison and Hannah Deoul made some key defensive blocks to keep the score low."

Herzog was named NESCAC Player of the Week for her performance in both games during the weekend.

The Panthers have a brief

respite this week, playing their next scheduled game on the road at Trinity on Saturday, April 13. The Bantams are currently ranked second in the national poll.

"Our team is very confident. We will have some things to work on in practice this week but should be 100 percent ready to win on Saturday," said Souther.

## Men's lacrosse splits NESCAC pair between Amherst and Tufts

By Mary Claire Ecclesine

Since students departed for spring break on March 22, the men's lacrosse team has played six games, recording four wins and two losses. The Panthers' record currently stands at 8-2 overall, with a 5-2 mark in NESCAC play.

Recently, the Panthers faced off on the road against Tufts and Amherst, recording a 10-8 win and a 14-13 loss on April 6 and 7, respectively.

Mike Ford '15 commented on the team's mentality before the games.

"The team was definitely feeling good going into the weekend, but we still knew that we hadn't played our best lacrosse yet so we were excited to go out and compete against two great teams," he said.

Over the break, the team earned wins over Wesleyan, Hamilton and New England College, while falling in a one-goal game to Bowdoin. Since then, the team played conference road games against Amherst and Tufts on Saturday and Sunday, April 6 and 7.

"We were looking to rebound from our first loss on the season, and in the NESCAC, against two great teams in Amherst and Tufts," said tri-captain Billy Chapman '13. "This was our biggest weekend of the season thus far and we were excited at the opportunity we had in front of us."

Ford also spoke of the loss to the Polar Bears as a reality

check for the squad.

"I think the loss to Bowdoin was a good thing for us as a team," said Ford. "It showed us how competitive the NESCAC is and that any team can win on any given day. We all learned a lot from that game and it definitely made us better and will for sure help us down the road."

On this past Saturday against Amherst, the squad scored three goals in 68 seconds as part of a 4-0 second-quarter run to take an 8-3 halftime lead. The run featured Jon Broome '16, Christian Johansen '16 and Joel Blockowicz '15 all scoring in just over a minute to run the

Panther lead to 8-3 at the half.

In the second half, the Lord Jeffs mounted a late comeback, but ultimately fell short, and Middlebury went on to win by a final tally of 10-8.

Broome tallied a game high three goals, while George Curtis '14, Blockowicz, tri-captain Stew Kerr '13, Mike Giordano '13, Scott Redmond '13, Spencer Macquarrie '14 and Tim Giarrusso '16 each added one to the winning effort.

The Panthers outshot the Jeffs 49-44 in the game, while Amherst held advantages in faceoffs and ground balls.

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FILE PHOTO

Joel Blockowicz '15 added to the Panther's score during the team's 10-8 win over Amherst on Saturday, April 6. The team then traveled to Tufts where they fell 14-13 in their second loss of the season.

## Softball tallies six consecutive wins

By Alex Morris

After a strong start to the season during spring break where the Middlebury softball team posted a record of 5-5 on its Florida trip, the Panthers went on to collect two wins against Castleton and Union during the week of April 2. This puts the team in a strong position to play Hamilton this coming weekend, April 12 and 13.

Head coach Kelly Bever outlined some of the team's expectations heading into the regular season.

"Going into Florida, we were working off some injuries, so we were looking to get players back into action," said Bever.

The team opened up its season with a 12-3 win over Western Connecticut in Clermont, Florida. Pitcher Kat Maehr '16 earned the win in her collegiate debut, allowing three runs over four innings. Sarah Boylan '13 went 2-3 with two doubles, three runs scored and three RBIs, while Emma Katz '13 was 2-2 with a double and four RBIs.

Middlebury fell 6-5 to Tufts in the second game of break and first game against a NESCAC opponent after a hard-fought battle. With the game tied at 4-4, the Jumbos scored solo runs in the fifth and seventh innings before holding off a Panther charge in the bottom of the seventh inning. Jessa Hoffman '13 went 3-4 with a double and two RBIs in the game, while Kimber Sable '14 was 2-3 with a

double and two runs scored.

While Middlebury fell 12-5 to Oberlin on day two of spring break, the Panthers bounced back beating Grove City 11-2. Middlebury held a 9-0 early lead in the five-inning contest as Elizabeth Morris '14 allowed one run in four innings and Jessica Poracky '13 went 2-2 with a double and two runs scored. Carlyn Vachow '16 went 2-3 with a double, two runs scored and three RBIs.

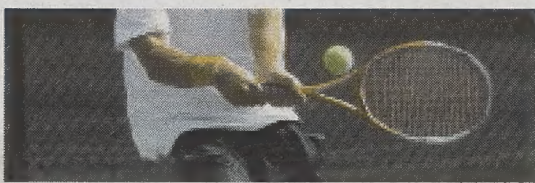
Middlebury continued its strong spring break with a 6-5 win over Colby and an 8-4 win over Eastern Connecticut. Against Colby, Vachow went 2-3 with a double while Hoffman was 2-4 with a triple. The Panthers built up a 5-0 lead over Eastern Connecticut as Sable went 3-3 in the game, while Hoffman was 2-3 with a triple and Morris picked up the complete game win as pitcher.

Middlebury was unable to build off these wins, falling to both Union and Luther. Against Union, the team gave up four runs in the seventh and then one in the eighth as they dropped an extra-inning affair. The Panthers gave up seven runs in the third inning against Luther as Hoffman went 2-2 in the game with a double while Poracky also doubled.

The Panthers then managed an 11-3 win over Elmhurst in which Morris earned the win with five innings of work. Jackie Stern '16 finished the game 3-5

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